

**By David Smith and Richard Thomson**

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## Schools told to create science experts

By Our Education Correspondent

Primary schools should ensure that certain teachers are science experts to ensure that children aged five to seven are properly introduced to science, according to a government policy statement published today.

It notes that too few pupils get a grounding in science at this age, and adds that all children, from the reception class onwards, should study some science and that all class teachers, without exception, should include some science in their teaching. Many do not do so at present.

The policy statement, published by the Department of Education and Science, says that teachers with a background in science should act as consultants to stimulate science teaching in schools and give help to their colleagues.

It suggests that those teachers should help others to draw up a programme of work.

The statement adds that all pupils should study a broad science programme from the age of five to sixteen. It adds that in the fourth and fifth year of secondary school about a fifth of the timetable should be devoted to science.

● Lady Warnock, mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, is accused of making a serious error in her Dibleby Lecture on teachers to be broadcast tonight on BBC television.

The chief education officer of the Inner London Education Authority, Mr Bill Stubbs, has written to the BBC to complain about Lady Warnock's accusation that political indoctrination is taking place in London schools.

In her lecture Lady Warnock says that political education in London has aroused enormous hostility among parents, and not only among those to the right of centre.

## Teachers' union gets 78% backing for more disruption

By Lacy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Members of the biggest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers, have voted by a 78 per cent majority in favour of disruptive action to support school strikes.

Mr Doug McAvoy, deputy general secretary of the union, said yesterday that the vote of confidence in the union's leadership is also an indication of how strongly teachers feel about their pay dispute.

He added: "That should be taken note of by elected representatives in county councils who face re-election in May. Candidates who wish to unseat them should have regard to the vote we have won."

He pointed out that the union had voted for disruptive action by a 70 per cent majority in 31 of the 44 shire counties, and added that the purpose of the ballot was to prevent local authorities seeking injunctions against the union.

The votes in favour of disruptive action, which fall short of strikes, ranged from 59 per cent in Surrey and 60 per cent in Buckinghamshire to 95 per cent in South Tyneside and Waltham Forest.

The disruptive action involves refusing to cover for absent colleagues and refusing to do lunchtime supervision and attend parents' or staff meetings.

Solihull council took the union to court and obtained an injunction requiring a ballot. The union later decided to hold a national ballot to stop other authorities taking similar action.

However, the union still maintains that the sanctions are not a breach of contract because it claims that the duties are

voluntary and points out that the court hearing did not resolve the issue.

So far ballot returns have been received from 120,000 union members. When all the votes are counted, the union expects the majority in favour of disruptive action to be about 70 per cent.

The second biggest teachers' union, the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers, announced yesterday that it was intensifying its campaign of selective strikes.

From next week it will be striking in six new authorities: Barnet, which includes the Prime Minister's Finchley constituency, Bury, Oxfordshire, Sefton, Suffolk, and Wigan. That is in addition to the present action in 10 authorities.

● The Educational Institute of Scotland, the country's largest teaching union, announced yesterday that next week's selective strikes would be the most disruptive yet, affecting about 400,000 pupils, nearly half the school population.

● Mounted police officers were drafted into Glasgow city centre yesterday after 5,000 pupils went on strike.

The half-day strike was called by the Labour Party's Young Socialists to protest against the Youth Training Scheme.

But the hall booked for a rally seated only 2,000 and thousands of pupils roamed about the city centre.

Miss Jackie Galbraith, chairman of the Young Socialists, said: "We object to losing the money if you refuse to take part in some coolie labour job scheme."

## Rules will restrain doomed councils

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The Government took exceptional steps yesterday to prevent the seven local authorities that it wants to abolish next year from awarding themselves a "life after death".

Ministers fear that the seven, the Greater London Council and the English metropolitan county councils, will try to entangle successor authorities in legally binding agreements to fund controversial voluntary groups after abolition.

The measures were announced as the dispute in the Labour leadership of the GLC flared into a public exchange of accusations.

The rules have been added to the Bill to abolish the councils. If the Bill passes into law the rules will apply to deals negotiated from today. They will also allow the courts to make councillors pay for any spending incurred by breaking the new rules. That would be added to the present powers to disqualify such councillors from public office.

Mr Ken Livingstone, leader of the GLC, called the new measures "abolition by the back

door". A new rule to make the threatened councils clear contracts with ministers would ensure that "virtually everything we do would be subject to veto by the Government", he said.

Mr Livingstone's argument, about rate-capping tactics with Mr John McDonnell, deputy leader of the GLC, surfaced in rival journals yesterday. Mr Livingstone said in the *New Statesman* that Mr McDonnell, had split the Labour party in London and "set back the whole rate-capping campaign".

Mr McDonnell wrote in *Tribune* of "all the excuses that Ken Livingstone and the new, centre-right realignment are now peddling for reneging on London Labour party policy of not setting a rate".

● Aycliffe, Peterlee, and Washington new town development corporations in the North-East, due to be wound up in December this year, have been given a reprieve until March 31, 1988. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary for the Environment announced yesterday.

## Evidence in boy's murder case retracted

A claim by a prosecution witness in the Carl Bridgewater murder trial that evidence he gave was false is to be considered by the Home Office.

Mr Reginald Hickey, a London roofer, who gave evidence against his two cousins, Vincent, aged 30 and Michael Hickey, aged 23, who were convicted of murdering the newboy, aged 13, in 1979, is now retracting that evidence.

Mr Hickey, who was in prison at the time the boy was shot at Yew Tree Farm near his home in Worsley, Hereford and Worcester said the evidence he then gave the police was aimed at helping him get parole and to get back at his cousin Vincent, whom he partly blamed for his own imprisonment.

He has made a statement to Mr Jim Nichol, Michael Hickey's solicitor.

An investigation into the case last year found no grounds for further action.

## Drugs 'sold by heiress were rubbish'

The heiress of a millionaire property tycoon was branded a drug pusher at a London court yesterday. But Knightsbridge Crown Court heard that Emma de Vere Hunt, daughter of John de Vere Hunt, had a "bad reputation" among the Chelsea cocaine and champagne set.

"The quality of the drugs she sold was rubbish" said Miss Lyzette Baker of Cadogan Gardens, Chelsea, whose sister, Frank-Anne was a close school friend of Miss de Vere Hunt.

"She used to sell drugs in my flat, she would bring drugs for my sister and if my friends were there they might buy drugs from her."

Miss Baker, agreed that she was on remand in Holloway Prison denied being "put up" to give evidence on behalf of Diana Willis, aged 41, of Addison Road, Holloway Park and Miss Vivien Wyatt, of De Vere Gardens, Kensington, who both deny four charges of supplying drugs.

## Computer of the Yard in pursuit

"Try some career other than forgery", said the computer and, with a contemptuous blip, spat out a journalist's attempt to copy a signature.

Scotland Yard was showing off a computer it is developing to detect forged signatures at a rare exhibition to invited guests to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its forensic science laboratory.

The magnifying glass and the brass astrophotometer used for measuring suspects' look like relics next to the massed wizardry of modern technology today's sleuths use to get their man.

The latest device, which arrived only on Wednesday, is a portable laser machine - the first of its kind in Europe - with a flashing green light which shows finger prints where other techniques cannot find them, like on rusty knives. It can show fingerprints inside shoes and thus help with the identification of a body, or reveal the imprint, invisible to the eye, of forged banknotes on paper which has been wrapped round them. It shows up erasures and alterations on documents.

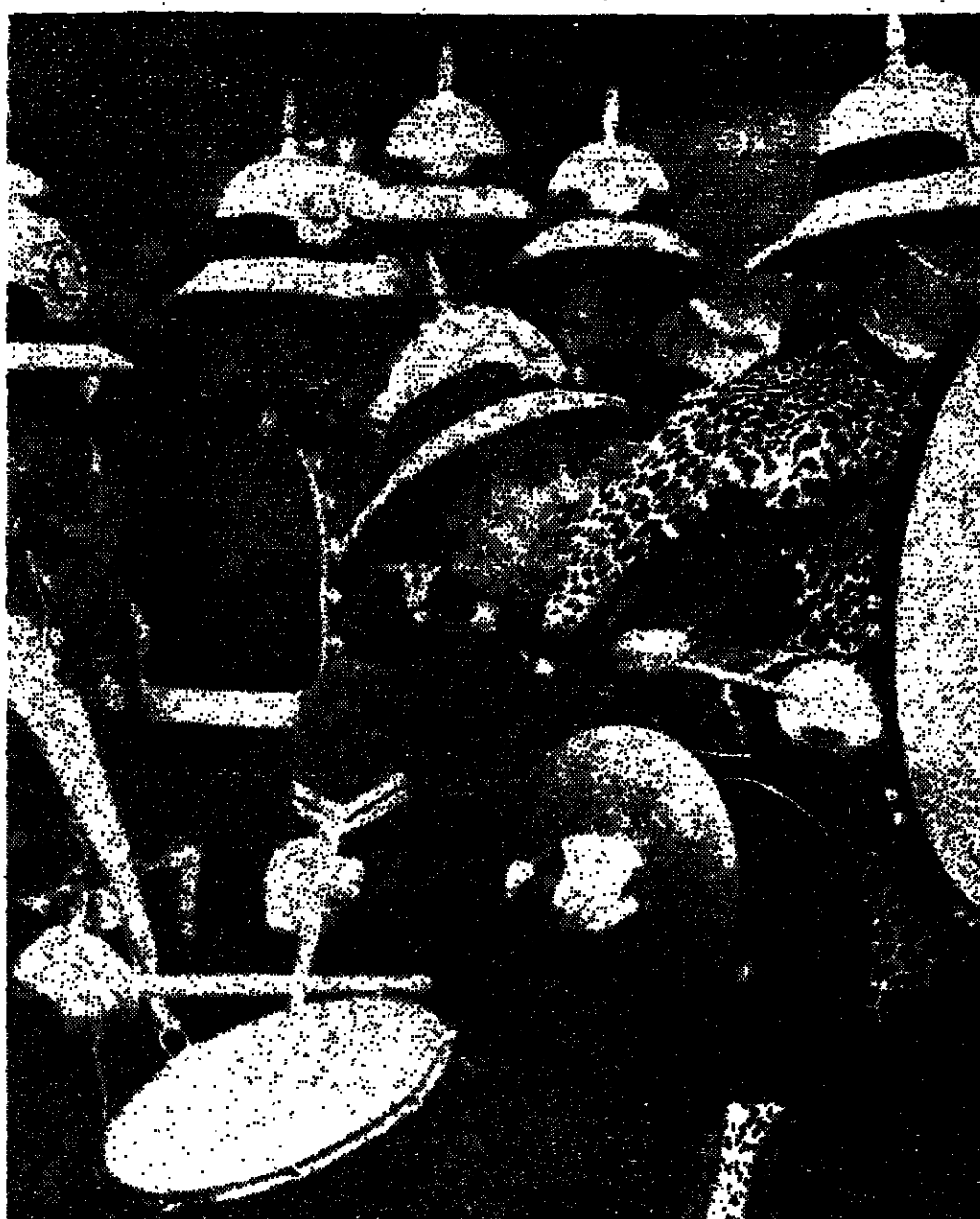
The forensic staff, all civilian scientists, had reconstructed the Cranley Gardens kitchen and bathroom of Dennis Nilsen, the convicted mass murderer.

Other machines can, within half an hour or so, tell scientists all they want to know about a speck of paint.

Scotland Yard scientists have so refined blood grouping that the likelihood of two people having the same results is about one in 1,000 in the most common cases and one in some 10,000 million in the rarest. Two chemists, Julie Allard and Anne Davies, have devised the most reliable method yet for detecting, from visual swabs in the victim, the time a rape took place. Many of these methods are being copied by other police forces around the world.

The principal guests at the three-day exhibition, in addition to other police forces, are local and national government authorities who fund the laboratory by £3 million a year. Expensive, but well worth it, the scientists say, at an average of £50 a case examined. Private laboratories would charge about £500 a time.

Despite this threat, the Post Office says the change is crucial to its efficiency drive. One of its main aims is to live up to the guarantee that 90 per cent of first class mail will be delivered the day after posting.



Corporal John Wise, aged 26, at five feet tall believed to be the smallest man in the British Army was one of the proudest yesterday. He was playing the cymbals in the band as his regiment - the Devon and Dorset - exercised its freedom of his home town, Torbay.

## Wages councils

## Changes likely on young people's pay

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Government's consultative paper on the possible abolition of wages councils makes clear that even if abolition is rejected ministers will seek changes particularly in the area of deregulating the pay of young people.

The document says that there is a choice between outright abolition or reform, but adds that a number of studies support the view that statutory minimum rates of pay jeopardise employment.

"There can be no case for the legal prescription of pay rates which have the effect of making it difficult for those who wish to take up employment to do so," the paper says. It implies that the Government's "substantial body of opinion" which believes that total deregulation could be harmful, lead to uncertainty and instability on wages and a

consequent deterioration in industrial relations. Equally, it says, string arguments have been advanced for abolition of the councils, which cost more than £4 million to administer. Bureaucratic burdens fall most heavily on smaller enterprises which are least able to cope with the red tape.

If the system is to be maintained in some form it would be imperative to tackle its damaging effect on youth employment," the Government says. A possible alternative to removing the pay of young people from the sphere of wages councils would be to introduce an upper limit on the rates which could be set for them.

That could take the form of setting minimum rates which were not allowed to exceed a

given percentage of the rates set for adults.

Another possible reform might be to allow the councils to set a single minimum hourly rate. The paper says that the reforms suggested would remove "many of the detailed inflexibilities of the system. But compared with the abolition option they are unlikely to have as much effect on the overall level of employment and risk maintaining artificially high rates of pay for adults which are damaging to employment, the Government says.

● Shop workers could be plunged back into a Dickensian world of less money for poorer conditions if wages councils are scrapped, according to Mr Bill Whalley general secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers.

## Ireland bans Nazi war criminal

By Richard Ford

A convicted Nazi war criminal was barred from the Irish Republic yesterday following rumours that he would settle there after his release from prison in the Netherlands today. Peter Menten, 85, who owns a Georgian mansion in Co Waterford, has been excluded under the Republic's 1935 Aliens Act.

Irish Jews protested when it was reported that Menten, a former SS officer sentenced in 1978 to 10 years' jail for his part in the wartime "murders of 20 Polish villagers - planned to return to Comeragh House, 20 miles from Waterford City, which he bought in 1962.

Menten's lawyer denied the report, but the Irish Cabinet discussed the matter at its meeting in Dublin yesterday and shortly afterwards the justice minister, Mr Michael Noonan, announced the exclusion order.

Last night, however, the Dutch lawyer Mr Adrian Oomen, told Irish radio: "The exclusion order looks to me illegal under EEC law." Nationals of EEC countries can settle in any member state.

In recent months, Menten's ex-wife visited Comeragh House, several times. The House, which contains a valuable collection of paintings and furniture, has been extensively renovated, with steel shutters placed over the windows. The case will be heard in July.

## SAS man to face secrets charges

A senior officer of the Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) to face a court martial charges under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday. Colonel Richard Lea, who holds the Distinguished Service Order, and has been a 10-year serving member of the SAS, has been suspended from duty since last June while investigations were taking place.

Colonel Lea, who is 51, unmarried. He has served Northern Ireland and Middle East state of Oman.

## Powell's embryo Bill doomed

The only remaining hope the Bill introduced by Enoch Powell to ban experiments on human embryos - the Government to give parliamentary time - quashed by Mr John Birt leader of the Commons, du question time yesterday.

He said the Government maintaining its stand of "truthfulness towards the Bill," there it remains.

His opponents who believe Bill will inhibit medical research, are planning to speak length on earlier Bills, ensure that time runs out and the is consequently killed.

## Track record

A new rail speed record between London, Paddis and Plymouth was set yesterday for Inter City 125 charter M. L. Engineering, of Plymouth. It did the 225.7 journey in two hours, minutes, 44 seconds, the Cornish Riviera's pre record by 28 minutes seconds. The special service train was driven by Mr White, of Bath, and Mr A Bell, of Bristol, both aged 6.

## Caribbean focus

A nine-month project to improve British attitudes towards the achievements people from Caribbean tries is to be organized next March by the Cor wealth Institute and the mission for Racial Equality. Events will include a service at Westminster, on April 27, which has designated "Caribbean day".

## Driving charge

Mr Trevor Slevin, 39, Chief Fire Officer of 1shire, appeared before a magistrates yesterday charged with failing to provide a specimen for analysis, a driving with too much alcohol on December 22. The 1shire was adjourned until May.

## Dome for dig

Archaeologists are planning to attract thousands of visitors to a 3,000-year-old Bronze Age settlement at Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, by erecting a plastic dome that visitors can see dig progress.

## Murder trial

Nicholas Boyce, aged 41, cleaner of Bethnal Green London, was committed to custody to the Central Criminal Court for trial by magistrates yesterday with murdering his wife, aged 32, once a Lord Lucan's children.

## Orchid meat

The Nottinghamshire Nature Conservators paid £19,000 for near acres of meadow at Leverton, near Retford, to preserve one of the finest arrays of cowslip orchids.

## Horse power

A horse-drawn rig comes into service in field today replacing which councilors say is smelly and expensive horse cart drawn by called Captain is cheaper to run.

## Aids rule

Patients suffering from AIDS could be detained in hospital if they would otherwise be a danger to the public, regulations which came into force today. But Aids being made a notifiable

## Open house

The Wellcome Foundation yesterday had an open house at its Beckenham Research Centre to counter accusations on its experiments.

## MP to retire

Sir Peter Mills, Conservative MP for Devon Torridge, is to retire from Parliament at the next election.

## Correction

Andrei Gavrilov was ph while rehearsing with the Philharmonia Orchestra, London, Symphony Orchestra, stated yesterday.

## CLOSING DOWN SALE

All stock must go

For example:

Pakistan Bokhara starting from £130 (6ft x 4ft)

Persian silk qum £1,200 (1 1/2 metre x 1 metre).

Persian Isfahan starting from £1,050, size 1 1/2 metre

x 1 metre.

Turkish silk herkey size 1 x 1 1/2 metre price £1,650

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## Union dispute looms over Post Office efficiency plan

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Post Office may be heading for a confrontation with its workers over its determined drive to improve efficiency. The main feature of measures presented to the Union of Communication Workers is a big increase in part-time working, which union members have rejected.

The efficiency package calls for a rise in the number of regular part-time staff employed in mail handling from 8,500 to about 20,000. The management has said that if the union does not agree the scheme will be imposed unilaterally. Union leaders have given a warning that such a

## POST OFFICE PERFORMANCE

Year	Profit (£m)	Manpower	Productivity Improvement
1979	33.1	122,533	-2.5
1980	34.1	122,262	+1.9
1981	27.1	128,594	+3.1
1982	88.0	123,815	+4.8
1983	131.8	122,807	+2.3
1984	116.9	124,138	N/A

\* Involved in mail handling

Source: Post office

move would provoke action to disrupt mail deliveries.

Despite this threat, the Post Office says the change is crucial to its efficiency drive. One of its main aims is to live up to the guarantee that 90 per cent of first class mail will be delivered the day after posting.

The present rate is 87.4 per cent.

Part-time working is considered vital because most of the 40 million letters handled each day by the Post Office arrive in a rush between 7am and 9.30am and after 5pm. The extra part-time staff would be used to deal with these peaks, reducing the amount of overtime paid to full-time staff, who may have quiet periods during the day and are paid premium rates for evening work.

But a union conference earlier this month instructed negotiators not to accept an increase in part-time working, which is seen by the union as the first move towards introducing mail handling systems like those used in other

countries and relying heavily on new technology operated by part-time women workers.

New technology is another important aspect of Post Office plans. The management wants to extend an experimental scheme using a machine that can "read" printed or typed envelopes, correct postcodes and then impose blue phosphorous recognition dots on envelopes for subsequent sorting. The system operates at the big Mount Pleasant sorting office in London and the Post Office wants to introduce it at 20 other centres.

The machine can deal with 30,000 envelopes an hour, manned by two or three people instead of the 15 needed normally. The management has

said that about 300 jobs would be at risk in the big sorting offices where the machine would be introduced, but it has promised there will be no redundancies.

Another new machine, known as E40, is undergoing engineering tests and when brought into service will be able to sort 35,000 pieces of mail an hour compared with the present machinery's capacity of 16,000 letters.

Since 1979, when the Post Office was strongly criticized by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission over its business in London, and particularly its productivity performance, productivity has improved by 13 per cent overall and in London by 26 per cent.



# Lords condemn murder conviction of soldier who killed his father

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The House of Lords ordered yesterday that a verdict of murder should be set aside as "unsafe and unsatisfactory" in the case of Alastair Moloney, a soldier convicted in 1981 of killing his stepfather and now serving life imprisonment.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, said a verdict of manslaughter should be substituted and the case should be sent back to the Court of Appeal for it to decide an appropriate sentence at the earliest possible date.

The circumstances of the case, the latest in a series of miscarriages of justice, were strongly criticized by Lord Hailsham who, with four other law lords upheld the prisoner's appeal. He said he felt a "sense of deep distress" at the course which this unhappy and "cautious tale has taken" to reach the Lords.

He added: "In the end, justice in this case will have been done, but, in my view, at the end of an unduly long and circuitous route. Justice would have been done at the trial itself had the court and prosecution followed the 'sensible course' adopted by the magistrates at the

commitment proceedings and accepted the 'proper' plea of manslaughter tendered by the defence.

Justice would also have been done at the Court of Appeal, Lord Hailsham said, if the court had correctly analyzed the true nature of the defence as it emerged from the evidence and had noticed that it had not been put to the jury.

Moloney killed his stepfather with a 12-bore shotgun in November 1981 during a drunken "duel". Moloney, then aged 23 and serving with the Gordon Highlanders, was at a party to celebrate the ruby wedding anniversary of his mother and stepfather.

Outlining the case, Lord Bridge of Harwich said stepfather and stepson, who had "a happy and loving relationship", had drunk a good deal. The shooting occurred after an argument over whether Moloney should stay in the Army. Moloney admitted to the police that he had shot his stepfather and added that he "didn't want to kill him" and that he "loved" and "adored" him.

Magistrates at St Neots, Cambridgeshire, found there was no prima facie case for

murder and committed Moloney for trial at the Crown court on a manslaughter charge. But the Crown refused to accept his plea of guilty to manslaughter and he was indicted for murder.

Moloney was convicted of murder before Judge Stephen Brown at Birmingham Crown Court in September 1982 and his appeal against conviction was dismissed by the Court of Appeal in December 1983.

Lord Bridge said the issue for the jury had been simple: whether when Moloney pulled the trigger he realized the gun was directed at his stepfather's head, in which case the verdict was murder; or whether in his drunken state and "faced with a ridiculous challenge" to see who was faster on the draw, he had not realized where the gun was pointing, in which case the verdict was manslaughter.

The jury had been confused by the judge's direction as to the meaning of "intent" to kill, Lord Bridge added. Judges should avoid any elaboration of what was meant by intent and leave it to the jury's good sense to decide whether the accused acted with intent or not.

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## Football clubs sued for police costs

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

South Yorkshire County Council is taking High Court action against Sheffield United and Rotherham United football clubs to recover money allegedly owed for the policing of matches.

Up to February 12, Sheffield United allegedly owe £110,000, over two seasons and Rotherham was said to owe £51,000 over a shorter period up to February 23.

Mr Norman Darnill, secretary of Rotherham United, accepted he had received invoices for £51,000. "We don't think we owe anything, because we think that when we pay our rates we pay for police charges," he said.

Mr Derek Pooley, a director of Sheffield United, said he would not comment because "we are going to court. I would think you are near enough right on the figure and the time factor as well."

South Yorkshire council said the police cover for games was continuing although there was no statutory obligation to do so. However, should Mr Peter Wright, the chief constable decide that cover could no longer be provided or that spectators could be endangered because of a particular fixture, magistrates could order that matches take place behind closed doors.

Mr David Dent, deputy

secretary of the Football League, said that policing costs for clubs were very substantial, sometimes running into thousands of pounds a match.

Mr Leslie Curtis, chairman of the Police Federation, said yesterday that football clubs must pay the full costs of all police officers engaged in duties connected with a match.

He said that all grounds, irrespective of their size, should be required to have a safety certificate. When a club had record of violence and could not be constructed to eliminate the danger of mass violence, the chief officer of police should advise the local authority to withdraw the certificate, he told a national Police Federation meeting in Nottingham.

Two football supporters were jailed for 14 days and fined £200 yesterday, with an alternative of a further seven days' imprisonment, when they were convicted at Highbury Magistrates' Court in London of using threatening behaviour at the Arsenal v Manchester United match on February 23. Both had a previous conviction for using threatening behaviour.

Twenty English fans arrested for drunkenness in Madrid before the Spurs v Real Madrid UEFA cup match on Wednesday have been released without being charged.

## Police hunt after body is thrown from train

Police officers yesterday began a murder hunt after finding the body of a woman who had been thrown from a train. Her throat appeared to have been cut.

The body was found three miles north of Northampton Castle Station at an isolated stretch of line near a golf course. British Rail said the woman had been travelling in the 9.02 pm train from Euston to Birmingham New Street Wednesday night. It was not until the train arrived in Birmingham at 11.47 pm that the blood-covered carriage was discovered.

Police officers at Northampton said the woman was aged between 25 and 30, and had short, mousy hair. She was 5ft 2in tall, had blue eyes, and was wearing a maroon cardigan, white blouse, brown skirt and a red mackintosh, tights and boots.



Princess Anne, who is a guest on BBC-1's *Wogan* show today.

## Gunman 'wanted to die'

Anthony Baldesare surrounded himself with guns as he prepared for death in a gun battle with the police, an inquest at Southwark, south London, was told yesterday.

Baldesare, aged 45, was wanted in connection with the shooting of a police dog, Yerba, last year and other armed raids. But he was frustrated by the patience of the armed police surrounding him and finally shot himself in the chest with a shotgun.

During the 60-hour siege in January at Glenelg Road, Streatham, Baldesare spoke on the telephone to his family, friends and detectives.

Det Chief Insp John Shoemaker told the inquest: "There was little doubt that he wanted to die in a shootout with the police. He told me he was surprised the police did not go into the flat by force."

The jury returned a verdict that he killed himself.

## Murder charge JP 'bore no grudge'

A magistrate accused of murdering his former fiancée's secret lover told a court yesterday that he bore him "no grudge", and denied that he killed the man because he had "taken his girl".

Kenneth Pegg, aged 36, of Cow Roast, near Tring, Hertfordshire, was being cross-examined on the fourth day of the trial at St Albans Crown Court. He has pleaded not guilty to murdering a betting shop manager, Peter Goddard, aged 25, on August 9 last year.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr Pegg stabbed Mr Goddard to death with a

surgical amputation knife after discovering that his former fiancée Ruth Thompson, aged 21, was having a sexual relationship with both men but keeping it secret from each one.

Cross-examined by Mr Alan Suckling, QC, for the prosecution, Pegg said he was aware Miss Thompson was having a sexual relationship with Mr Goddard.

Mr Pegg said he had met Mr Goddard in a car park on August 9.

Mr Goddard had wanted to see a portrait of Miss Thompson which the JP had commissioned

## Test starts for ovary cancer

By Thomson Prentice

A screening test against ovarian cancer, which kills more than 4,000 women a year, has been introduced at a London hospital.

The privately owned Portland Hospital said yesterday that it could screen as many as 10,000 women in its first year of offering the service, using an ultrasound scanner. The test was developed at King's College Hospital, London, two years ago but is not available elsewhere in the National Health Service.

Ovarian cancer is known as a partially "silent" cancer because symptoms do not become apparent until the disease is far advanced.

Smear screening for cervical cancer, which is less common, has been available for many years, but no similar test for ovarian cancer was found until the introduction of the ultrasound scanner.

It has proved possible with the ultrasound technique to detect many ovarian tumours and for the first time, to diagnose cancer at a very early stage.

More than 7,000 women have been screened with ultrasound at King's College Hospital, and another 7,000 are on the waiting list.

A mother aged 27 is suing Oxfordshire District Health Authority over an alleged cancer test mix-up.

The woman, seriously ill with cancer, has had several operations, and is one of the three Oxford women who, the local community health council said last week, were not told about positive cervical cancer tests.

The latest case to be brought to the attention of Oxfordshire Community Health Council concerned a woman now aged 40, with a son aged 14.

A hysterectomy had to be carried out when she discovered by chance on a return visit to the Bury Knowle family planning clinic, Oxford, a year after a test, that the smear was positive.

Shropshire Health Authority is to review its cancer smear test procedures after a woman found out by chance that hers had proved positive.

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## Latest video camera uses mini-cassette

A video camera using a compact cassette the size of an audio tape was launched in Britain yesterday by the Japanese electronics group Sony. The cassette, which is much easier to handle than the larger tapes used in present cameras, is expected to become standard for all video tape recorders, too.

The Sony Video 8 camera will sell for about £1,000. It has a built-in playback facility and to make it attractive to people who do not own a video recorder Sony is offering for £200 a timing device allowing the camera to tape television programmes.

Mr Pegg said he drove there in his Jeep.

Mr Pegg said the two of them had spoken for 20 minutes. The conversation ended shortly after remarks about Miss Thompson's sleeping habits.

A struggle started when, he said, Mr Goddard had leant into the Jeep, pulled out a knife, and started to attack him. He remembered only once being aware of the knife entering Mr Goddard's body. He told the jury: "I never denied I tried to cause him any injury."

The trial was adjourned until today.

## Tenants ask court to restore heating

More than 2,000 Camden council tenants who have been without heating or hot water for almost two weeks began yesterday their attempt to get the Court of Appeal to order the heating to be turned back on.

Mr Michael Miller, QC, for the residents of Maiden Lane estate and Denton Estate, Camden Town, north-west London, said their lives were being made "intolerable" by the refusal of the boilermen involved in pay disputes with the council to repair the boilers.

They are asking the court to overturn the refusal of a High Court judge last Friday to appoint a receiver to restore the heating.

The London Borough of Camden, which is defending the action, says that electric fires and water heaters are being provided to tenants who ask for them.

The hearing continues today.

## Cause of death challenged

Professor Hugh Johnson, a pathologist, told an inquest in Southwark, south London yesterday that Mrs Helen Smith, aged 31, her daughter Natasha, aged 11, and son Michael, aged 13, were all strikingly cold when they were found.

Mrs Smith and her daughter were found dead in their flat at Edmond House, Estate Grove Estate, Walworth, south London, on February 15. The boy died two days later in hospital.

Professor Johnson said that Mrs Smith and her daughter died from hypothermia caused by carbon-monoxide poisoning. The boy died from brain damage caused by hypothermia.

But Mr Michael Mansfield, counsel for the family, suggested that death was not caused by hypothermia but by unusually high levels of carbon monoxide, which emanated from a boiler.

The inquest was adjourned to March 26.



Owl prowl: The London Wildlife Trust, represented here by Miss Fiona Bateman and Beardsley, a tawny owl with one wing - the other was lost in a collision with a car - yesterday launched a population survey of the birds throughout Greater London.

In 1972 the tawny owl population in London was estimated at 300 pairs. Numbers are thought to have increased rapidly as the species has adapted to built-up areas, unlike little owls and barn owls.

Tawny owls have changed their normal woodland diet of small mammals to small birds such as starlings and sparrows and have found safe nesting sites in hollow trees.

Londoners who wish to participate in the trust's "Owl Prowl" can obtain kits with instructions and fact sheets from the trust at 1 Thorpe Close, London W10 5XL. (Photograph: Dod Miller).

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## Slump in advertising cuts TV programmes

Tyne Tees Television is to make cuts in its programme plans because of a national slump in ITV advertising revenues. The economies are expected to be the first among several ITV companies whose advertising income has failed to meet targets.

The children's series *Supergran* and a drama series about the drugs campaign *Operation Julie* will be delayed by the cutbacks, the company said yesterday.

ITV advertising revenues

## Toyota experts to investigate 'faulty brakes'

Toyota, Japan's largest car maker, has flown six senior engineers to Britain to investigate allegations that its eight-seat Space Cruiser has potentially dangerous brakes (Clifford Webb reports).

The Department of Transport is following developments. It could order Toyota to recall all 2,200 Space Cruisers sold in Britain.

The Consumers' Association has urged a recall.

## Vermouth finds the law lords' favour

Cinzano (UK) yesterday in the House of Lords won the final round of a legal battle which will save it more than £3 million a year in excise duty on imported vermouth.

The saving results from a plan by Cinzano to import vermouth of different alcoholic strengths, taxed at different rates, and blend them in Britain.

The plan fell foul of the Customs and Excise which considered that the blending amounted to "wine production" on which further tax was payable.

That view was upheld in the High Court by Mr Justice McNeill last July, but two weeks later the Court of Appeal ruled in Cinzano's favour.

Lord Scarman, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Brightman and Lord Templeman yesterday agreed unanimously with the Court of Appeal and dismissed on appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise.

The case was watched keenly by Martini and other wine importers, but after yesterday's decision there was speculation on whether the importers would be allowed to pursue the project.

"The sums involved are quite large and there could be moves afoot to consider changing the tax band rates for different alcoholic strengths", a lawyer said.

Lord Brightman said that the rate of duty on the wine under the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act, 1979, depended on its alcoholic strength.

There were four bands: not exceeding 15 per cent alcohol by volume; between 15 per cent and 18 per cent; between 18 per cent and 22 per cent; and over 22 per cent.

Law report, page 25

# Development areas: nowhere else comes within miles of Corby

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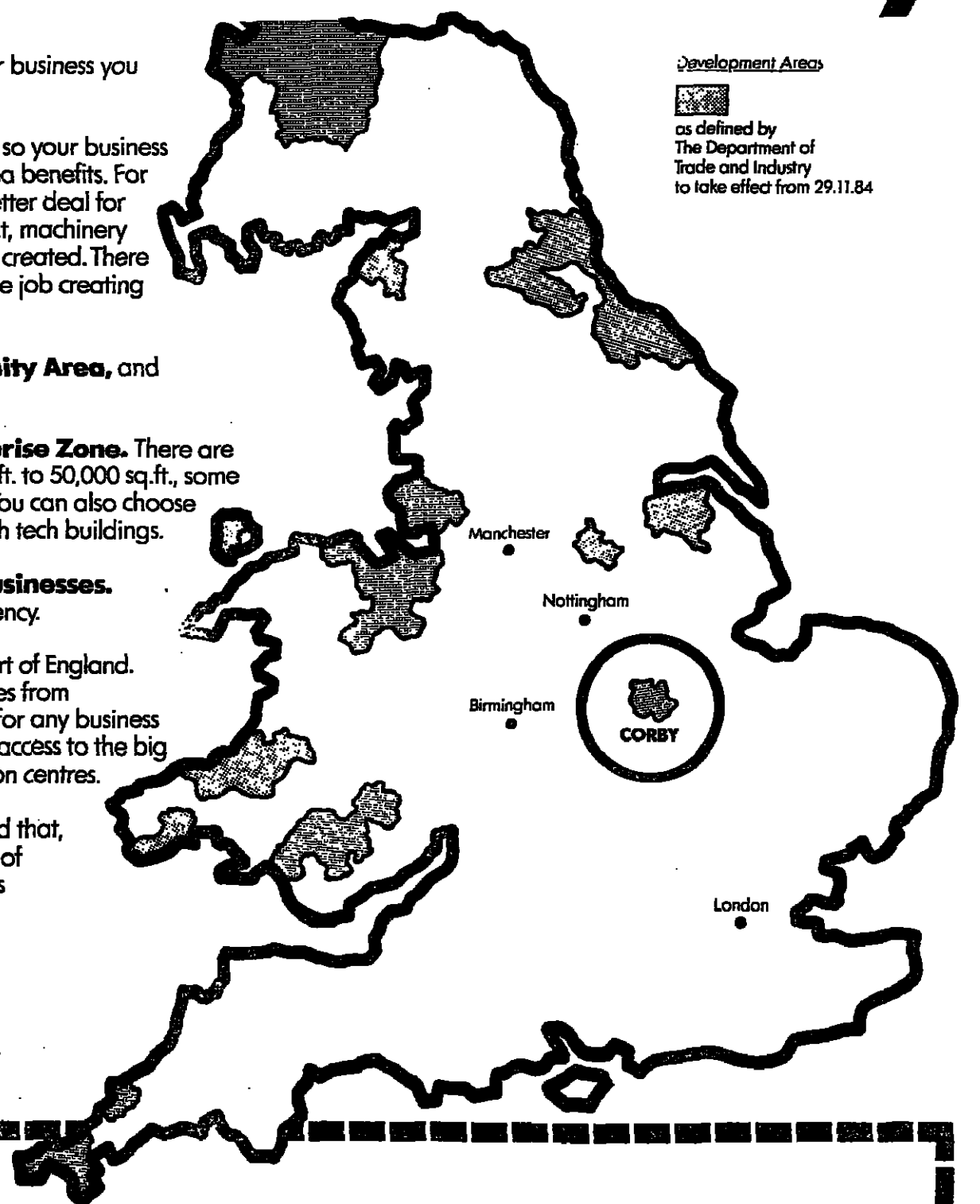
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**CORBY WORKS**



PARLIAMENT MARCH 21 1985

House purchase

Board and lodgings

Wages councils

## Thatcher regrets increase in mortgage rates

### COMMONS

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, told the Commons that she regretted the 1 per cent rise in mortgage rates just announced but added that the building societies must be the best judge of the rates necessary to attract sufficient money to enable them to continue to meet the demand for mortgages.

She was replying to Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, who said the increase would cause much hardship to millions of home-buying families throughout the country. He called on Mrs Thatcher to support those building society chiefs who favoured a system for setting mortgage rates more rational and stable than the present one which followed short-term market fluctuations.

Earlier, during questions to Treasury ministers, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, predicted that mortgage interest rates would be considerably less within a year.

Mr Kinnock also asked: Does not the Prime Minister, who heads the high mortgage Government, understand the immense anxiety of families with a £20,000 mortgage whose rate of repayment has gone up by over £30 a month since last summer alone?

Does she think that families with a mortgage should be the victims of short-term speculation by big speculators? If not, will she take steps to introduce a system which will mean that mortgage payers can enjoy greater stability and security in the prices they pay for their houses?

Mrs Thatcher: Building societies can only lend money which has been lent to them. There are some 14 or 15 million people who put their savings in building societies. They can choose where their savings go and the building societies have to have a rate of interest which will attract them, otherwise there will not be money for mortgages.

I am glad he is so concerned. I hope he will also consider the need to keep down rates to counteract inflation.

Mr Kinnock: The rise in mortgage repayments which has taken place in just the last year is bigger than any rate bills ordinary people buying their houses have to pay.

If she is concerned, why does she not use the Government's powers to help building societies? Public money would then be literally as safe as houses and people could get a stable rate of payment for their mortgages.

Mrs Thatcher: Building societies have to attract the savings of the people, who have the choice of

where they put their savings. It is important that the building societies have enough money to lend out as mortgages. If Mr Kinnock had his way there would be far fewer owner-occupiers.

Earlier, during questions to Treasury ministers, Mr Ray Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, asked for confirmation that if the mortgage rate was increased then for most house owners the increase in mortgage repayments this year would more than exceed any reduction in their income tax.

Mr Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that is a typically confused calculation. The benefits in income tax will last the entire year whereas the extra burden in mortgage interest will last only so long as mortgage rate is higher. It will be considerably less within a year.

Mr Andrew Mackay (East Berkshire, C) will Mr Lawson speculate on how much inflation will be fuelled if the building societies increase interest rates for mortgages?

Mr Lawson: This is entirely a matter for the building societies and has nothing to do with the Government. (Labour laughter.)



Mackay: Impact on inflation

This would, in the short run, cause an increase in the retail price index but would not over the medium term have any effect on the level of inflation.

Mr Hattersley: Will Mr Lawson tell us for he must know, how much the RPI would be increased by a building societies' increase? Will he confirm that the increase in mortgage repayments endured by most householders will more than take up the tax reductions from the Budget?

Mr Lawson: It is an impertinence for Mr Hattersley to address this Government on the issue of inflation.

## Post Office aims to speed up deliveries

### HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government has expressed concern to the Board of the Post Office at its continuing failure to meet delivery targets agreed with the Government, and the Post Office is taking steps to improve performance, including changes recommended by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in its report last September. Lord Lucas of Chilworth, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said during question time in the House of Lords. The Government, he added, was monitoring the position.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C), who had opened the exchanges by asking what action the Government was taking to clear deterioration in the delivery service, then asked: First class mail between points in central London take three or four days to deliver and the incidence of wrong delivery of clearly addressed mail is rising. If the Post Office Board is incapable of remedying this, will the Government consider further appointments?

Lord Lucas of Chilworth: As for delivery rates in central London, the Post Office quarterly statistics report indicated that for the quarter ending December 1984, 84.9 per cent of first class mail was delivered by the first working day after collection and for the year 1984 the figure was 83.2 per cent.

The target is 90 per cent, but the figures show there has been a slight increase in the last quarter. As for wrong deliveries, we do have some problems with inward sorting arrangements which are being looked into by both the union and the Post Office Board.

Lord Grimond (L): Part of the trouble seems to be that the Post Office is overloaded with a miscellaneous collection of duties which deflect its mind from delivering mail as quickly and cheaply as possible.

Lord Lucas of Chilworth: The Post Office Board has introduced sector activity so that delivery of mail receives its full and proper attention.

## Appointment of Levene takes effect

### CIVIL SERVICE

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, denied during Commons questions a charge that the appointment of Mr Peter Levene as the Ministry of Defence's Chief of Defence Procurement had compromised the integrity of the Civil Service.

She said it was right there should be more interchange between business and the Civil Service. The issue was raised by Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP, who said: It is an extraordinary situation that the Chief of Defence Procurement cannot be shown documents affecting a £200 million contract, and that should have previously been a political adviser then illegally appointed to be a permanent civil servant.

It is not true the Prime Minister withdrew that appointment and did not compromise the integrity of the Civil Service in the way she has done.

Mrs Thatcher: It has not been compromised. I would have thought he would agree with many people who think it is right there should be more interchange between business and the civil service. This is one of the ways of increasing knowledge in the Civil Service of business and how it works.

Permission has been given by the Commissioners of the Civil Service for the appointment, which has now taken effect.

## Next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Conclusion of debate on the Budget.

Tuesday: Motion for the Easter adjournment. Consolidated Fund (No 3) Bill.

Wednesday and Thursday: Local Government Bill, remaining stages.

Friday: Private Member's motion on the economy and industry in Scotland.

### DEFENCE

The Ministry of Defence would be placing an order with Shorts for 130 Tucano basic trainer aircraft, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, announced in the Commons. The decision should result in more than 1,100 job opportunities in the UK, more than half of them in Northern Ireland, he said.

The price of the contract was approximately £60 million, some 35 per cent less than originally envisaged, and in the end cost had been the decisive factor.

Mr Kevin McNamara, an Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, said if the interests of the Royal Air Force had been paramount, instead of the ideological doctrine of the Prime Minister, then the order would have been placed for the PC9.

In his statement, Mr Heseltine said: The Ministry of State for Defence Procurement informed the House on December 18 1984 that best and final offers were being invited from British Aerospace and Shorts to clarify and amplify certain aspects of their tenders for a contract to meet the Royal Air Force's requirement in order to enable a final decision to be reached.

It was subsequently agreed that Westland and Hunting, who had also submitted tenders in the first round, could submit their own best and final offers. All four tenders have now been fully evaluated.

In addition the American firm Garrett, who will be supplying the engine for the Tucano, have given offers under a separate contract. The choice of the PC9, proposed by British Aerospace in association with the Swiss firm, Pilatus, and the

Tucano, proposed by Shorts in association with the Brazilian firm, Embraer.

Procurement of either aircraft would provide much better value for money than the alternative option of refurbishing the Jet Provost fleet.

The choice between these two fine aircraft has proved to be evenly balanced.

Both comfortably meet the minimum specification and either is capable of meeting the RAF's training needs very satisfactorily. Selection of either would boost jobs for British industry, both directly through the order for the RAF and indirectly through the export sales which the successful firm could be expected to win.

In the end cost has been the decisive factor. Our policy is to reduce the cost of defence equipment through the maximum use of competition, thus providing better value for money for the taxpayer and stronger defences for the country within the resources available.

Of the two best and final offers, Shorts is the cheaper by a clear margin.

Subject to final completion of contractual negotiations, there are no doubts about the order with Shorts for 130 Tucano aircraft. The contract will be on a firm price basis that is to say, the price is fixed in cash terms, and any cost escalation of the exchange risks will be borne by Shorts.

Allowing for potential overseas sales our decision should result in over 1,100 job opportunities in the United Kingdom with over half of them in Northern Ireland.

In making the American firm Garrett, who will be supplying the engine for the Tucano, have given offers under a separate contract.

Shorts partnership with Embraer in this venture should open up many commercial opportunities. The decision I have just announced

is an important one in the context of our enhanced competition policy. Mr McNamara said the Secretary of State had chosen an aircraft that had not flown and one that RAF did not want. The Government intended to sell shares in British Aerospace and this decision would effect the value of the shares and the amount of money the Government would get. A penny of the shares was equivalent to £1 million.

If the Government made a similar disastrous decision about the European fighter aircraft the whole of the policy of selling shares would be put at risk. Mr Heseltine said the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the foot as well as himself.

He congratulated Shorts, for whom the goalsposts had been moved and who had the conscience of the Minister of State for Defence Procurement (Mr Adam Butler) in its pocket because of previous job losses in Northern Ireland. Had Shorts given any undertakings about the numbers of members of the minority community who would be employed?

The Government appeared to be paying part of its debt to the Brazilian government for its help during the Falklands campaign. Was this a final settlement or were there other debts to be paid? That debt had been paid at the expense of the finest air force in the world.

Mr M Heseltine said Mr McNamara's remarks bore no relationship to the way in which the MoD went about its valuation processes, and his suggestions were quite without foundation.

Mr McNamara said a regard for the Tucano met the specifications it had laid down as being necessary.

In making procurement decisions, by definition for every other company, it was impossible to make decisions affecting one company or country without other companies or countries feeling they had missed out.

When such a clear winner emerged, to the cost advantage of the taxpayer and the defence budget, it was not right to take into account the sort of issues Mr McNamara had raised. Of course the Brazilian government would be pleased. But that was not his first consideration. Sir Anthony Shack (Colchester, North, C) will Mr Heseltine reiterate that the aircraft fully meets the requirements put forward? What export potential he expects?

Mr Heseltine: All four aircraft in the later stages did meet the RAF's specifications, at least on paper, because of course some did not get to the actual development stage.

The arrangement between Shorts and Embraer meant a significant export opportunity for Shorts but it was up to that company to grasp them. They could be significant and may be up to 200 aircraft.

Mr Kenneth Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone, OU) said it would be unjust to suggest that the contract had been awarded for political reasons. It was awarded to a highly skilled firm with good labour relations and where management had proved their efficiency by a success to the US and China.

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## Revised charges to avoid waste and abuse

### SOCIAL SECURITY

Announcing new and reduced limits on supplementary benefit payments towards board and lodging charges, Mr Anthony Newton, Minister for Social Security, said in the Commons that action was needed to control this form of expenditure which increase had gone far beyond what could be justified by sensible social priorities.

The Government, he believed, had proposals, modified in the light of advice from the Social Security Advisory Committee, would enable real needs to be properly met while avoiding unacceptable waste and abuse.

But (the added) we shall monitor carefully the effects of the changes, and be ready if necessary to make further changes.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, said Labour strongly rejected the harsh and discriminatory measures. They were another attack by the Government on some of the poorest and most vulnerable members of society.

Mr Newton said the new arrangements would, subject to the approval of Parliament, come into operation on April 29 1985.

In his statements he said, the maximum weekly amount payable for ordinary board and lodging charges will be reduced to £10 per week and varies from £40 to £110 per week of standard amounts ranging from £45 to £70 per week.

Subject to these limits, there will be no restriction on access to board and lodging accommodation for people aged 26 or over, or for those of any age who come within defined categories such as those who are chronically sick or disabled, those who have a dependent child, and those who have been in the same accommodation while in employment.

For unemployed claimants aged 25 or under, unless they are in an exempted category, each area will have a limit of two, four or eight weeks on the period for which board and lodging payments will be made.

Hostels, which have hitherto been subject to the normal board and lodging rules, will be treated as a separate category, reflecting the importance which the Government attaches to them. They will have a higher limit set at £70 a week nationally, plus a most ordinary separate category, reflecting the importance which the Government attaches to them. They will have a higher limit set at £70 a week nationally, plus a most ordinary separate category, reflecting the importance which the Government attaches to them.

For residential care and nursing homes the Government intends to set new limits at a level which it believes will allow reasonable charges to be met in homes meeting the new registration arrangements under the Registered Homes Act 1984. At present, local limits vary from £51 to £215 for residential care homes and from £80 to £295 for nursing homes.

The limits for residential care homes will be £110 a week for the mentally ill and for drug and alcohol misusers; £140 a week for the mentally handicapped; and £170 a week for physically disabled below pension age.

age. A sum equivalent to the higher rate of attendance allowance—currently £28.60 a week—will be paid to those limits for people in nursing homes. There will be an additional hospice category, with a limit of £198.60 a week.

In future, "topping-up" payments by local authorities towards the cost of younger people in residential care homes will not reduce the payment of supplementary benefit; but attendance allowance will be taken into account in full in assessing the need for supplementary benefit.

The proposals, he said, were designed to provide a second year of training for young people under 18, but also the intention that all those taking part in the scheme should have the opportunity to achieve a vocational qualification at the end of their training.

I am therefore asking the MSC (he said) to carry out a comprehensive review of vocational qualifications with the aim of ensuring that they have a system the people can readily understand, that they can join at any stage, which is based on achieving recognized standards rather than time serving, which is really relevant to the world of industry.

It is a key element of our proposals that the two year YTS should give our young people the chance to gain such qualifications.

He also indicated the Government's intention to reinforce the Technical, Vocational and Educational Initiative and similar initiatives in schools with a special programme of in-service teacher training specifically in support of the new initiative.

He had authorized the MSC to spend £5 million in 1985-86 in getting the programme under way and had advised them they would receive a further £20 million for the purpose in 1986-87. These arrangements would enable the programme to make an effective start in advance of the Secretary of State for Education and Science carrying further forward in alternative arrangements.

The most frequent subjects for complaint by employers about other obstacles in the labour market concerned the wages councils and the Employment Protection Act. No Government could ignore such complaints.

The Government's job was to

## YTS must enable young to gain vocational qualifications

### BUDGET DEBATE

Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Employment, announced in the Commons debate on the Budget, details of proposals on the Youth Training Scheme which he had put to the Manpower Services Commission for consultation.

The proposals covered, he explained, not only the expansion of the scheme to provide a second year of training for young people under 18, but also the intention that all those taking part in the scheme should have the opportunity to achieve a vocational qualification at the end of their training.

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The Government's job was to

strike a proper balance between protection for those in jobs and improving opportunities for the minority without jobs. If the voice of the unemployed was to be heard, a new balance must be struck, and that was why the Government believed some changes in these regulations were now necessary.

There was reason to suppose wages councils set wage levels that were harmful effect on unemployment and that was particularly true of young people. Many argued that the only way to tackle the problem was to abolish the councils. Others said the faults in the system could be dealt with by reform.

He was issuing a consultative document that day on these two options, abolition or reform, and he was asking for comments on it by the end of May.

He proposed in the document to take the next opportunity to clarify the convention No 26 of the International Labour Organization which was now restricting the United Kingdom's flexibility in a crucial area. The United Kingdom must regain its freedom to take whatever action it thought necessary to help the unemployed.

The Government hoped a considerable amount of young people would come on to the YTS and had estimated possibly up to 300,000 next year. If they did, there would inevitably be savings in supplementary benefit.

Labour MPs should not see in this some sinister plot which meant the scheme ceased to be voluntary. That was not the case. There was no change in the arrangement for the YTS.

The Government has no proposals for changes in the arrangements for supplementary benefit and the scheme would continue to be on a voluntary basis.

We intend (he said) to make a major expansion of the Community Programme from 130,000 to 230,000 places by June next year. The programme would then be able to help 300,000 long-term unemployed each year.

In addition, he proposed some new approaches. So far, industry and commerce had found it difficult to play a major part in the programme. But they could make a

major contribution to this work and many would be willing to do so. So he had invited the MSC to investigate immediately ways in which the private sector could be involved in the programme.

Second, he wanted to see charities and voluntary organizations being able to play a much bigger part in helping long-term unemployed. Some had been deterred by the Government's rules.

I have asked the MSC (he continued) to see how we can make it possible for them to employ long-term unemployed in their valuable activities.

Third, he wanted the Voluntary Projects Programme to be developed. This had already helped 35,000 unemployed people in the past year, including some of the most disadvantaged, to do useful voluntary work. So he had asked the MSC to consider ways in which, through this programme, they could provide further help for the long-term unemployed.

Special action must be taken within the overall strategy to help the labour market to work and encourage the creation of more jobs by removing obstacles like wages councils and the Employment Protection Act which might deter employers from taking on more people.

To carry forward the expansion of the main Community Programme and to make possible the new initiatives the Chancellor had agreed to increase the department's programme by £140 million in the coming year and £460 million in 1986-87, in addition to the £592 million already set aside.

From April the Enterprise Allowance Scheme would also be expanded to help 62,500 unemployed to set up businesses in 1985-86



## The Star Wars debate

## Second envoy's meeting shows Allied concern

Reverberations are continuing this week from the speech by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, on the British view of President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative on the development of "star wars" technology in space. Below are extended extracts of Sir Geoffrey's remarks made last Friday in London to the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies.

In his speech, Sir Geoffrey said: The President's vision has already made a decisive impact in several respects. It has focused interest on military activities in space, and on might theoretically be deployed or public notice the very considerable Union of a range of potential defensive measures.

## More propaganda than substance

Not enough attention has been paid on this Soviet research. It is intensive and far-reaching and has been going on for many years. To ignore or to dismiss what is happening in the Soviet Union would be not only myopic; it would be dangerous.

Equally, in Soviet calls for the "demonstration of space" I see more propaganda than substance. Activities in space with military relevance are not by definition evil. It is neither feasible to try to preclude all of them.

Current Soviet rhetoric makes a less than serious contribution to a most serious debate. Greater precision and deeper thought are required. For a start we must distinguish between present military activities in space and those that may at some far-off point in the future achieve reality. And at all times we must keep in mind the key question: will new development enhance or undercut deterrence?

We face the problem of anti-satellite systems, exacerbated by the Soviet deployment over the past decade of a limited capability in this field. It would be a serious blunder if the West allowed the Russians to continue to enjoy their present monopoly.

The US intention to balance the established Soviet capability in this field is logical and prudent.

On the other hand, we must recognize the heavy Western dependence upon the existing utilization of space technology for intelligence purposes. We must also recognize that the prospect, at a time of crisis, of either side being faced with the loss of its strategic eyes and ears would be gravely destabilizing. It could provoke a new and even more threatening stage in any East-West confrontation.

The Government take the view that if negotiations were to succeed in imposing mutual constraints on anti-satellite systems, these could have a helpful impact over a period of years. We should take that opportunity now, if it is in the Western interest. Any such ASAT Agreement could be limited if necessary to a fixed period, in order not to prejudice the future.

Much has been said and written about President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative. The first point to make is that, as US spokesmen have made clear, this is a research programme, conducted in full conformity with the limits of the ABM Treaty.

Given what we know of Soviet activities in the research field over a number of years, there is a clear need for the United States to match the present stage in Soviet programmes. It is for this reason that the Prime Minister has repeatedly expressed our firm conviction that US research should go ahead.

But what should happen if and when decisions are required on moving from the research to the development stage?

In evaluating the results of research, and in taking any such decisions, we shall need to ask ourselves some very basic questions about the future nature of Western strategy.

In particular, we shall have to consider how best to enhance deterrence, how best to curb rather than stimulate a new arms race. At that stage, the judgements to be made will only partly depend upon technical assessments about the feasibility of defences.

Even if the research shows promise, the case for proceeding will have to be weighed in the light of the wider strategic implications of moving down the defensive road.

But can we afford even now simply to wait for the scientists and military experts to deliver their results at some later stage? Have we a breathing-space of five, 10, 15 years before we need to address strategic concerns? I do not believe so. The history of weapons development and the strategic balance shows only too clearly that research into new weapons and stages of their strategic implications must go hand in hand.

## Survivable and cost effective

Otherwise, research may acquire an unstoppable momentum of its own, even though the case for the widening may strengthen with the passage of years. Prevention may be better than cure. We must take care that political decisions are not pre-empted by the march of technology, still less by premature attempts to predict the route of that march.

## Murder charge woman on bail

A woman jointly accused of murdering a Scotland Yard undercover detective at her home was released on a total of £100,000 bail by London magistrates, south yesterday after nearly eight weeks in custody.

Brenda Noyce, aged 35, and

her husband Kenneth, aged 37, of West Kingsdown, Kent, and Brian Reader, aged 43, of Grove Park, south London, are charged with murdering Det. Constable John Fordham on January 26. The two men are also charged with conspiring to handle stolen bullion.



Signs of The Times: Left, William Howard Russell, the war correspondent, photographed in 1861. Right, top, "Mr Blight's House", the papers first editorial illustration in 1806. And, bottom right, a silver matchbox, presented to staff volunteers who worked through the General Strike of 1926.



## Exhibition traces signs of The Times

By Alan Hamilton

Newspaper offices create avalanches of ephemeral paper, be it letters, memoranda, or raw copy for the printer. Most of it is thrown away to make room for the next day's relentless tide, but fortunately The Times has always had its boarders to sift the dross for nuggets of history.

To mark this newspaper's bicentenary the British

Library, from its own collections and from the extensive archives of The Times, has assembled an exhibition of some of the choice documents of the past 200 years to trace the progress of the paper and its times.

William Russell's diary of the Crimean War, in a small, neat hand, lies open at a page for September, 1855. A typed dispatch from our correspondent on the Franco-German

frontier in 1939, one Kim Philby, bears the heavy blue pencil of the censor.

The only known existing copy of the first issue of the Daily Universal Register of 1785, and a sample of "The Pip-squeak", the duplicated edition brought out during the General Strike, tell a story of uninterrupted production for 170 years.

Some of The Times' most popular news photographs are

on display, and the artefacts of two centuries include samples of John Walter's logographic printing process of 1785, to advertise the merits of which he started a daily newspaper. The exhibition is at the Crawford Room, British Library Galleries, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1.

and is open from today until June 30, 10 am to 5 pm Mondays to Saturdays, and 2.30 pm to 6 pm Sundays.

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## Forty years on, who's still on line?

When we grew up, the tin-can telephone was magic to the schoolboy.

Today, a micro and a modem is more his line. Our generation has seen four generations of computers.

But for business communications, it seems we still belong to the old school.

Most of us use old fashioned delivery boys. (Or couriers, as they are now called.)

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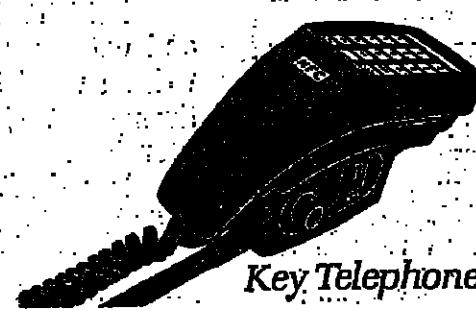
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من الاميل



## 'Helpers' ensure Ershad wins Bangladesh poll and propaganda victory

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

Having failed to come to terms with the opposition, the military dictator of Bangladesh, Lieutenant General Ershad, duly won yesterday's referendum designed to give him the democratic credentials to stay in power until the parties do agree with him.

An hour after the polls closed results from 231 polling stations mainly in the north of the country showed the "Yes" vote totalled 53,802. The "Noes" got 1,330.

A tour of the northern districts earlier in the day showed however that the day was essentially a clumsily managed propaganda exercise. We were shown enthusiastic voting, but it did not have the appearance of spontaneity.

Brigadier Mahmudul Hassan, general officer commanding the Northern Zone, said that the reform of local government under martial law had permitted the people to become directly involved in their own affairs. In the city of Bogra and outside in the countryside the polling stations were filled with happy voters. We were told that around 50 per cent had voted by midday, four hours after the polls opened. But most of the names marked off on the sheets appeared to have come from the early pages of the register; one would have expected a more even spread.

In both India and Pakistan voters, once they have cast their ballots, are marked on the hand with indelible ink to prevent

them voting again. No such precaution was taken in this election.

Down the road at Rangpur, the home town of General Ershad, great crowds appeared outside the local cinemas. Election Day was a holiday. Inside lines of voters hurriedly scrambled to their feet to stand in a queue outside each booth (we had a Bangladesh TV crew with us). Menacing-looking "helpers" had been hired to help around the place.

Polling stations not on our itinerary did not appear to be anything like as busy. When we dropped in unexpectedly on the border town of Hatibandha, we got what seemed to be a much more realistic assessment of what was going on.

The presiding officer gave his figures at 2.30pm as 433 votes having been cast out of a total electorate for his station of 3181 - a turnout of around 13 per cent. An hour later, thanks perhaps to the immense crowd drawn to the place by the descent of our vehicle, he had 718, or 22 per cent.

Back in Gaibandha where he had been expected for an hour and a half, the presiding officer reckoned he had had a turnout of "70 or 75 per cent." The people scrambling to form a queue were so obviously staged that it was ludicrous. The queues that formed were passed through so quickly that five minutes later there were no queues at all, and the presiding

officer's total must have neared 100 per cent.

Despite the Opposition call for a boycott of the referendum, and a general strike or *hartal*, there was little activity on the streets. Many people had taken advantage of the long weekend to go away to their home villages. There were, however, a number of bangs and whizzes from homemade bombs.

One exploded close to me on a road in the centre of Dhaka. It made a loud bang, lots of smoke and frightened the wis out of me, but did no other harm. Two other bangs outside the hotel where many foreign press and businessmen stay shook the windows and lifted a fraction of tarmac. One, in the small hours of the morning, was thrown at an auxiliary policeman and killed him.

Two days ago a medical student lost a hand in Rangpur, when a device he was manufacturing went off prematurely. Two of his friends were also injured.

An unconfirmed report yesterday said that a young man had been killed during the day when the security forces opened fire on him as he was trying to take down a referendum poster in Navangan. In Pabna, in the north, a child was injured when a stone thrown at voters struck it on the head.

By electoral standards elsewhere in the Indian sub-continent, this counts as an almost peaceful day of voting.



Bomb blitz: A disposal expert with a bomb thrown yesterday into Royal Jordanian Airlines' Athens office, and which failed to go off. Another bomb injured three employees. Similar attacks were made in Nicosia and Rome, where two employees were hurt.

## Concern for Britons in Lagos jail

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Ibrahim Karfi, the Nigerian Acting High Commissioner, was summoned to the Foreign Office for the second time in two weeks yesterday, amid growing concern over the plight of two British engineers who have been in jail in Lagos since last year, accused of conspiracy to steal an aircraft.

Mr Angus Paterson and Mr Kenneth Clark, both from Aberdeenshire, are being held in bad conditions.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, pressed Mr Karfi for an early reply to a British demand for improvements in the men's conditions in jail and for consular access.

A Foreign Office statement later said Mr Luce had expressed the "deep and increasing concern" of the government, the men's families and British MPs over the bad conditions being faced by Mr Clark and Mr Paterson - and also by Mr Graham Coveyback in Kiri Kiri Prison.

Mr Coveyback is another Briton jailed since September.

## President of Tanzania bows out

## Nyerere hits IMF 'ritual compassion'

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania flew home yesterday after promising to remain a thorn in the flesh of all those who wanted to dominate "my continent".

It was a suitable farewell for the man who, more than anyone else has epitomized the cause of African nationalism during the 24 years he has led his own Government in Dar-es-Salaam.

But the British love being pricked. Two standing ovations, lunch with the Queen and a celebration meal at Number 10 marked what was almost certainly President Nyerere's last official visit here before he steps down later this year.

They clapped long and loud at the Mansion House when he told the City that Africa's debt burden was intolerable and that countries could not go on carrying it.

Applause was even longer and louder at the Royal Commonwealth Society two days later when he accused the First World of using economic power like the gunboats of old, to exercise control over the Third World.

He was articulate but bitter in his role as chairman of the Organization for African Unity, when he condemned the International Monetary Fund as the main instrument of that economic power - and the small clutch of industrialized nations led by the United States, who wielded it. The very real compassion of their people contrasted with the ritual compassion of their Government, he said.

He told the Royal Commonwealth Society: "If the rich refuse to discuss methods by which the Third World can repay its debts, should we continue to try to pay on the terms set - even at the cost of letting our people starve?"

What I am saying is that the Third World should begin to work together and use its combined power - including the power of debt - to force upon the developed world a series of interlocked discussions.

There needs to be an urgent discussion about how and on what terms the debt problem can be dealt with.

There also needs to be a wider discussion directed at a reconsideration and reform of an international economic system which is working inequity and inexorably against the interests of the poor.

The former Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan, the Liberal leader Mr David Steel, the Commonwealth Secretary-General Sir Sonny Ramphal and the Archbishop of Canterbury's ubiquitous aide, Mr Terry Waite, were among those who joined Mrs Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Minister for Overseas Development, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, at a vaudeville luncheon in Downing Street for the man who 20 years ago broke relations with Britain.

It was a genial President Nyerere who at a press conference in his London hotel after "extremely cordial" talks at Number 10, contemplated the choice of his successor.

Despite its problems, he remained optimistic about Africa as its emergent states entered the second phase of their "liberation struggle". They had realised there was more to independence than flying a new flag and firing 21-gun salutes.

## Militiamen step up attacks on Irish troops

From Christopher Walker, Brachit, southern Lebanon

The 640 Irish soldiers serving with the United Nations force in Lebanon are facing a new campaign of violence from Israeli-backed militiamen which officers believe is aimed at forcing them to abandon strategic positions inside the buffer zone which Israel plans to control after its withdrawal.

The harassment on the ground is being matched at home with growing calls in sections of the Dublin press for the whole contingent to be flown back because of the dangers which it now faces in Lebanon.

After months of relative calm, Irish troops have been attacked twice in the past week by shoulder-fired rockets. They were also involved in a fierce, four-hour gun battle on Monday in which more than 250 rounds were fired by Israeli-armed militiamen at their company headquarters here.

As one stage, the Irish had temporarily abandoned a sandbagged check post after the militiamen advanced on it behind a human shield of 40 Lebanese girls - some as young as eight - who had been recruited from the local school.

Chanting anti-Irish slogans in Arabic, the girls later threw eggs at the bullet-scarred building in this village which houses men

Beirut (Reuters) - A split in Lebanon's Maronite community hardened as prominent Christian leaders condemned a militia revolt against President Gemayel's Syrian-backed efforts for reconciliation with Muslims.

Leaders of the Falangist and National Liberal (NLP) parties spoke out for the first time against the 10-day-old revolt.

NLP Secretary-General Dany Chamoun told Reuters the rebels were "playing with fire" and could plunge Lebanon back into civil war between Muslims and Christians. Falangist leader Elie Karameh said the party sought a compromise and did not recognise a rebel takeover of the "Lebanese forces" militia.

from Ireland's 56th Infantry Battalion. The Irish are convinced that the Israelis inspired the incidents as it took an Israeli liaison officer 23 hours to arrive on the scene.

"When I saw there was a danger of children getting hurt, I decided it was better to order my men to abandon the post," explained Padraig O'Callaghan, the company commander. "I am glad to say they are now back in their positions which are sited to contain a militia checkpoint which is in between them."

Tension in the village remains high with the normally relaxed and cheerful Irish troops on alert for more attacks.

Brachit sits under a high ridge which was visited unexpectedly this week by Mr Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Defence Minister, and General Moshe Levy, the Chief of Staff. Their helicopter visit, plus the anti-Irish campaign, have convinced UN officials that the ridge - known as Hill 880 - will form the northern edge of the zone Israel plans to control through its Lebanese militia allies.

## NZ rejects compromise to close nuclear rift

Wellington (Reuters) - A proposal in the US House of Representatives designed to resolve the dispute over New Zealand's ban on nuclear-capable warships was rejected yesterday by Prime Minister David Lange.

He condemned as negating New Zealand's policy the proposal recommending US endorsement of a South Pacific nuclear-free zone in return for removal of the ban.

## Two held over Briton's death

Tel Aviv (Reuters) - Two Austrians have been arrested in connection with the stabbing to death of Mr George Lloyd, aged 62, a British engineer, in his flat in Tel Aviv on Saturday.

Mr Lloyd's flatmate helped police sketch a woman seen at the flat, and she was arrested at Ben-Gurion airport. Her boyfriend was arrested later. Neither has yet been charged.

## Swimmer freed

Bangkok (AP) - Laos has released an American volunteer teacher arrested when he unexpectedly crossed from Thailand to Laos while swimming in the Mekong River.

## Guinness award

Hamburg (AP) - Sir Alec Guinness has won the 25,000-mark (£6,700) 1985 Shakespeare Prize for his services to English literature.

## Envoy moves in

Harare (AFP) - Mr Michael Ramsay Melhuish, former Ambassador to Kuwait, has become British High Commissioner to Zimbabwe after presenting his credentials to President Canaan Banana.

## Lucky No 15

Dunedin (Reuters) - Mr Toi Tamakehu, aged 50, went with joy when his wife gave birth to a daughter after 14 sons, and said she was "so beautiful she should be called Elizabeth Taylor Tamakehu."

## Nuclear setback

Vienna - Chancellor Fred Sinowatz suffered a new setback to his energy policies when his motion calling for a second new referendum on the fate of the country's nuclear power station was defeated in the Austrian parliament.

## Shultz tribute

Washington (NYT) - Secretary of State George Shultz will visit Israel on May 10 for ceremonies paying tribute to Jewish victims of Nazi Terror.

## Dance of death

Jakarta - Breakdancing claimed its first victim in Indonesia when Sukardi, aged 15, died after practising the headspin.

## Hear, hear

Washington - President Reagan, who has worn a hearing aid in his right ear for 18 months, is now experimenting with a second for "auditory balance".

## Unesco's last chance

## M'Bow under pressure to quit

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Buffeted by waves of criticism, much of it aimed specifically at Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, the Director General, Unesco has been given a virtual ultimatum - two months to decide on reforms and budget cuts needed for putting its house in order.

This follows the loss of the 25 per cent of its revenue hitherto contributed by the United States which withdrew at the end of last year on the grounds that the organization is mismanaged, excessively politicized and often anti-Western.

A consensus on the minimum needed emerged at a special meeting, convened by Switzerland, in conjunction with the current session here of the "Geneva group" which comprises representatives of 12 Western-oriented nations which

together pay 70 per cent of the assessed budgets of the four largest United Nations specialized agencies, WHO, ILO, FAO and UNESCO.

Britain has served notice of quitting Unesco at the end of December if drastic improvements are not initiated before then - with the Netherlands, West Germany, Japan and Canada poised to follow. With this in mind, the meeting agreed that "significant progress" towards reforms, including precise budgetary cuts, must be forthcoming for the next meeting of the 51-country Unesco executive board, starting in mid-May. Without such a move, no convincing evidence of essential changes could possibly be available for endorsement by the next general conference of all 160 members

in Sofia in October-November. Emphasizing it was a question of "Unesco's very survival", the Swiss representative, Mr Franz Muheim, said it was threatened with "irreparable damage" and with becoming no more than a "rump organization".

The Geneva group was unanimous on the need for selective cuts in Unesco's activities, such as putting aside its programmes on disarmament.

Group participants did not agree on whether "reforms from within", as advocated in particular by the Swiss, were possible if Mr M'Bow, whose mandate is due to expire in November 1987, continued in charge. "Reforms can only start with his departure", was one view.

## Solidarity calls for price rise protest

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Solidarity underground leaders have called for factory protests on April 1 to protest against a new round of price increases. The Appeal, signed by the Warsaw Solidarity chapter comes against a backdrop of unrest in Polish factories, with many work forces demanding higher wages to offset an increase in the cost of food, energy, rent and transport.

"We are demanding just compensation payments," said the appeal, printed for clandestine distribution in factories. "We are protesting against the inefficient economic policies of the authorities."

According to the instructions, workers should hold meetings with management, stage rallies or go on marches after working hours on April 1. On that day the second stage of the government prices, pushing up by some 20 per cent the cost of electricity, coal and gas, will come into effect.

Poles reacted quietly to the first round of increases, affecting such staples as bread, milk and tea, at the beginning of this month. But since then there have been several angry disputes in factories.

According to Solidarity sources, there have been four stoppages in the Rosa Luxembourg light-bulb plant in War-

saw, with the largely female work-force bawling out the management. Other plants have also been having problems and in some cases, in the steel industry, for example, even the official pro-government trade unions have been pushing hard for higher wages.

Next month's protests may therefore draw a broader response from workers. For factories already locked in wage disputes, short work stoppages will drive home the point.

Latest statistics show however that the Government can ill afford to buy social calm by raising wages. Losses during winter amount, according to official estimates, to the equivalent of £700 million.

There are indications that there will be considerable shortages, especially of such things as washing machines.

If the Government goes ahead with its third planned price rise in June, 15 per cent and more increase in the price of meat, dissatisfaction is likely to translate into serious unrest.

The sharp edge of Government policy at the moment, however, is being directed against anti-socialist intellectuals, that is, much of the non-communist intelligentsia, in anticipation of a special session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

## Lloyds Bank Interest Rates

Lloyds Bank Plc has reduced its Base Rate from 14% to 13.5% p.a. with effect from Wednesday 20th March, 1985.

Other rates of interest are reduced as follows:  
7-day-notice Deposit Accounts and Savings Bank Accounts - from 11.5% to 10.5% gross p.a.

On interest payments made after 5th April 1985, income tax at the basic rate will be deemed to have been deducted by the Bank.

For details of exceptions please ask at any branch.

The change in Base Rate and Deposit Account interest will also be applied from the same date by the United Kingdom branches of Lloyds Bank International Limited The National Bank of New Zealand Limited.

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## EEC talk it out to the end

From A Correspondent Brussels

A mood of grim determination to finalize arrangements for Spain and Portugal's entry into the European Community last night suffused renewed negotiations between EEC foreign ministers.

After a morning of talks with Spanish and Portuguese representatives, the Italian Foreign Minister, Signor Giulio Andreotti, who as president of the European Council of Ministers has the arduous task of putting the Community's case to the two countries, reconvened the EEC ministers for a final attempt to solve the remaining problems over fishing and agriculture.

But, with the talks already running a day over schedule, it seemed likely that negotiations would last late into the night and would have to continue today if any progress was to be made on arranging compensation for Spain for its net contribution to the Community in the early years of its membership.

European Commission figures put the Spanish contribution in 1986 at an estimated £720 million, a sum which will only decrease gradually as the country begins to benefit.

The European Commission president, Mr Jacques Delors, was expected to present a new set of proposals for financing Mediterranean infrastructure improvements (known as Integrated Mediterranean Programmes or IMPs) which the Greek Government is demanding as a precondition for accepting Spain and Portugal into the EEC.

Despite this mammoth programme, there was still cautious optimism among diplomats that the negotiations would finish successfully this week.

# VAT CHANGES

## ADVERTISEMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS, JOURNALS AND PERIODICALS.

The publication of advertisements in newspapers, journals or periodicals and associated services will be standard-rated from 1 May 1985.

Details are in Budget Notice 8/85.

## REGISTRATION AND DEREGISTRATION.

From 20 March 1985 the VAT registration turnover limits have been raised to £19,500 a year or £6,500 in any one quarter.

These limits apply to everyone who is required to be registered on or after 20 March 1985.

If your estimated turnover (including VAT) will be £18,500 or less in the year beginning 1 June 1985 you can apply for deregistration from 1 June 1985 now.

If you have been registered for two years and your turnover (including VAT) has not exceeded £19,500 in each of those years and is unlikely to exceed that level in the year then beginning you can apply for deregistration after 1 June 1985.

Details of these changes are in Budget Notice 1/85 which also explains how to cancel your registration.

## Further Information.

These Notices are available, with help if you need it, from local VAT offices. You will find the addresses in telephone directories under "Customs and Excise".

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## Crocker tries to break Namibia stalemate with new Angola plan

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A fresh round of talks opened here yesterday between Dr Chester Crocker, the American assistant Secretary of State, and Mr Pik Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, on the stalemate in Namibia, which is still awaiting independence from South Africa seven years after this was called for by the United Nations.

It is understood that Dr Crocker has brought with him new proposals from the Angolan Government regarding the withdrawal of Cuban troops from its territory as part of an overall Namibia settlement. He arrived in Cape Town on Wednesday night straight from talks with the Angolans on the Cape Verde Islands.

South Africa, with American support, has made the removal of the estimated 30,000 Cuban troops in Angola, which it claims are a threat to its security, a condition of its

willingness to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 435, which was passed in 1978.

The resolution, which Pretoria has accepted in principle, provides for a UN policed cease-fire in Namibia between South African troops and the Swapo black nationalist guerrillas, elections and independence, all to be achieved over a period of seven months.

Last November, Angola offered to repatriate 20,000 Cuban troops in phases over three years, but the first troops would leave only after South Africa's military presence in Namibia had been reduced to 1,500 infantrymen confined to barracks, a stage that would be reached three months after Resolution 435 had been put into effect.

In addition, the Angolans said they would need to retain the services of 10,000 Cuban

soldiers to protect Luanda, the capital, and vital oil installations in the Cabinda enclave.

This proposal was not acceptable to South Africa, which is estimated to have some 40,000 troops in Namibia, half of whom are local black recruits. Now, according to reports here, the Angolans have given Dr Crocker a firm offer to send home 10,000 Cuban troops and phase out the rest over a longer period.

Before starting talks with Dr Crocker, which may continue today, Mr Botha made a lightning visit to Maputo, the capital of neighbouring Mozambique, apparently to brief President Samora Machel on measures taken by South Africa to control clandestine deliveries of arms and supplies to Mozambican insurgents.

Picketing Reagan, page 16

## EEC agrees to compromise on car exhaust curbs

### Green light for British technology

From Jonathan Brande, Brussels

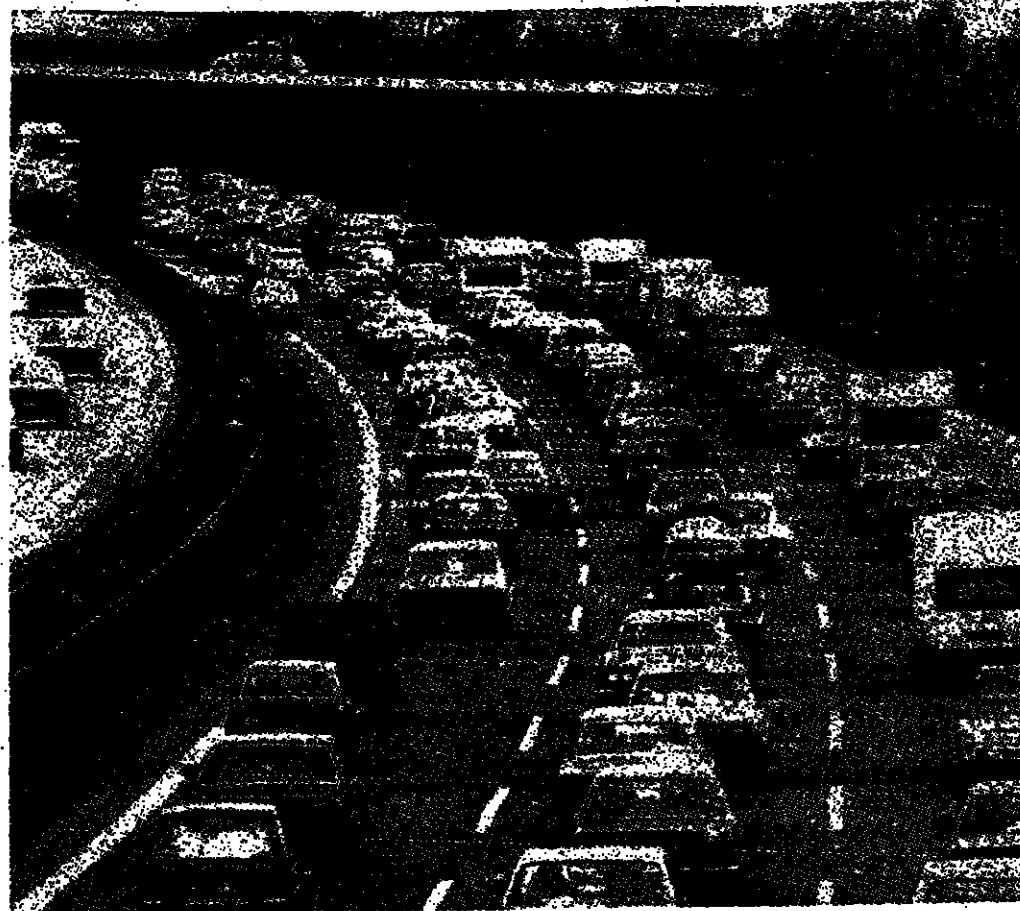
EEC environment ministers have agreed on vehicle exhaust emission rules which will reduce pollution and allow new British anti-pollution technology to compete in the Community market.

To ensure sales elsewhere, the European Commission says it will ask for the new rules to be applied in non-EEC countries through the European Free Trade Association.

The ministers have called for a new European exhaust emission standard which must be equivalent to the standard already applied in the United States.

However, the standard will be introduced at different times for different engine sizes. That will allow the Bonn Government to force fast-driving Mercedes-owning Germans to fit catalytic converters, the exhaust control technology used in the United States and manufactured in Germany, to all new cars from 1989. Germany may also offer tax incentives for car owners to fit converters beforehand.

New models must comply with the new standard in 1988. But for the medium-sized family saloon new models will not have to conform until 1991 and other new cars until 1993. For the small car range the new standards will not apply until 1993 for new models and 1994



Pollution threat: Rush hour on a West German autobahn shows the scale of the problem.

for other new cars.

The later dates for smaller cars, produced mainly by Germany's competitors, will allow sales of the lean-burn engine to pick up speed. This is the alternative technology being produced in Britain by Ford and due to come on the market this summer.

Britain argues that the lean-

burn engine will in the long run be more efficient and cost effective than the catalytic converter, because it will reduce fuel consumption as well as emissions of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons.

Although the lean-burn engine compares badly with the catalytic converter in terms of nitrogen oxide emissions, Brit-

ish officials argue that it will improve with more research. The catalytic converter has the advantage that it is available now. However, its disadvantages for the small car market outweigh its good points.

Its maintenance costs are estimated at about £90 a year and it has a short useful life. According to British experts, it needs to be replaced every four years and breaks down if it is not run on lead-free petrol or is overheated by fast driving. It will only function efficiently in fuel injection engines.

Meanwhile, Ford UK now has the green light to produce lean-burn engines at Bridgend in Wales.

Mr Stanley Clifton Davis, the EEC Environment Commissioner, has called the agreement a breakthrough in the field of environmental pollution, but the European consumers' organizations have attacked it as "too little and too late", while other opponents of the plan point out that like all EEC motoring directives it is not compulsory.

European Commission officials, however, argue that this "permissive" legislation will be effective because the market will force car manufacturers throughout Europe to conform to the demands of a country that imposes the strict standards on its own manufacturers.

Leading article, page 17

## Bonn's efforts under fire

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

It became steadily clear in Bonn throughout yesterday that the Brussels compromise on car exhausts was going to cost the West German Government much embarrassment and possibly some votes.

The reason was the apparent discrepancy between the defiant words of Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the West German Environment Minister of only a few weeks ago, and his rather accommodating attitude when the Brussels negotiations finally started this week. A statement by the main opposition party, the Social Democrats, said: "Never has a German environment minister come home with a more miserable result: It is Waterloo at Brussels for this Government."

The Greens, the environmentalist party whose recent successes at the polls caused the ruling Christian Democrats to take up the issue of car exhaust pollution in the first election, did not bother to hide their glee that, when it came to the point, the Government had proved to be not as passionate as themselves on the issue of protecting Germany's outdoors. A statement from the Greens said that the Brussels result was "the death sentence on the German forests".

Only the West German motor industry was really satisfied. Figures announced yesterday showed that car registrations for the first two months of this year were the lowest for 10 years because people were not prepared to buy new cars which might within a few years have required new anti-pollution devices.

There was general agreement that the affair had been mishandled by the Government. Only a short while before going to Brussels, it was pointed out, Herr Zimmermann had talked of West Germany going ahead alone with its own anti-pollution regulations if Bonn failed to get absolute satisfaction in Brussels.

● HELSINKI: Finland's state-owned oil company Neste Oy said yesterday it would produce lead-free petrol and sell it on the domestic market from June 1 this year (Reuters reports).

The decision is in line with plans in Western Europe to switch generally to lead-free petrol.

## Boff backs down after Vatican rebuke

Rio de Janeiro (NYT) - The Brazilian theologian Father Leonardo Boff, has said he accepted the Vatican's criticism of his work because "I prefer to walk with the church rather than to walk alone with my theology". He had criticised the church's hierarchical structure.

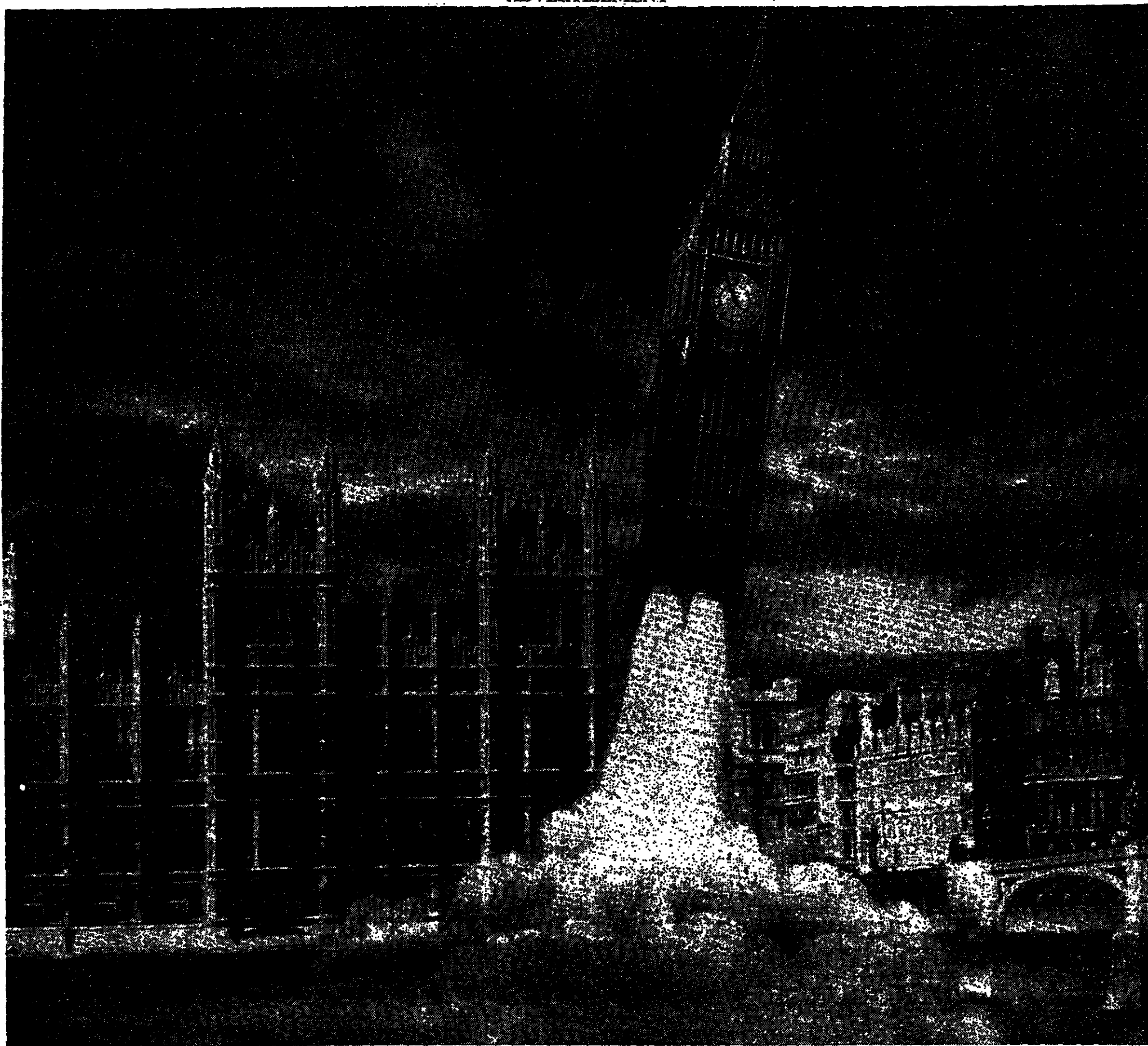
The Franciscan priest, one of Brazil's leading theologians, issued the statement on Wednesday at the seminary where he works in Petropolis, near Rio de Janeiro.

"Now that the highest doctrinal body of the church has spoken, it is for me to listen and adhere. In this spirit I

accept the reservations, noting that the criticisms do not qualify my opinions as heretical, schismatic or impious but as dangerous to church doctrine".

The fate of Father Boff's books of Essays, Church charisma and power, is still unclear, according to priests

### ADVERTISEMENT



## IF THE GOVERNMENT ABOLISHES THE METS, WHERE WILL COSTS GO?

Study revealing that abolition could cost ratepayers an extra £69 million annually, with transitional costs alone of £250 million - and that services would suffer as a result! Despite a record-making 200 hours of Committee debate in the House of Commons, Government Ministers have not only failed to substantiate the savings claim, but have even recognised the possibility of some costs increasing.

Nor have they been able to point out any other benefits of abolition. And they have only a fond hope that services will remain the same! An extra £69 million a year is a lot to ask the ratepayer to pay for services to get worse.

Shouldn't an enquiry be launched, before the costs of abolition really take off?

## Abolition-at any cost?

## Illness may stop Neves from taking power

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

There is growing concern that President-elect Tancredó Neves of Brazil will not be able to assume power for a considerable time, and perhaps not at all, following a second operation on Wednesday. Senhor Neves was taken ill a few hours before he was due to be inaugurated.

This is producing a complicated situation, as acting President, Vice-President Jose Sarney, was never considered as a viable substitute for Senhor Neves. His nomination was the

prize given to the small group of rebels from the ruling Social Democrat Party, for allying with Senhor Neves.

Senhor Sarney had been the national president of the Social Democrat Party and if his desertion to the Democratic Front was welcomed by many politicians, it continues to be regarded with great suspicion by much of the population.

Despite being without a leader, the first week of Brazil's "new republic" has got off to a flying start.

## The Co-operative Bank announces a change in base rate

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# THERE'S GOT TO BE A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH THE MOTORIST CAN BEAR

Motorists pay an enormous price for the freedom of the road – including £10 billion in tax last year. This year's budget will add 500 million on top of that – £150 million more than inflation.

## A BEASTLY BURDEN

In 1984, the average private car owner paid over £462 in taxes, made up of £280 fuel duty, £90 licence duty, £92 VAT on fuel. On top of that, new car purchasers paid an average of £400 in special Car Tax and £780 in VAT. In total, taxes today add 53% to the price of petrol and 25% to the price of a car.

It's a fact that motorists are perennial targets for discriminatory taxation, such as Car Tax. This is a unique levy to which no other consumer durable is subject – on top of which is added VAT. A tax upon a tax!

Layer upon layer of taxation can now be blamed as a major contributor to Britain's low level of car ownership relative to other European countries – a fact which has alarming implications for the industry and the economy as a whole.

## WEIGHING DOWN THE INDUSTRY

If the Government doesn't change its policy to the motor industry, then there is little hope of it resuming a strong position in the economy. Car production will decline at worst, remain static at best, and the country will learn to its cost the meaning of the law of diminishing returns. More cars, not fewer; and lower taxes, not higher, will generate the revenue the exchequer requires.

What's now called for is active encouragement from the Government in the form of abolition of the discriminatory Car Tax, less penalisation of the motorist, a reduction in the tax on car fuel benefit and the deductibility of VAT on company cars.

The removal of Car Tax (a "temporary" tax with a depressing air of permanence) is long overdue, accounting, as it does, for 7.7% of the inclusive list price. Its abolition would encourage growth in sales, which in turn, would be good for jobs and increase revenue for the exchequer.

Given that the motor industry has made good progress in recent years, but is vulnerable to falling sales volume and profits, encouraging growth is critical. Action is called for – and soon.

## SUPPORTING THE ECONOMY

In the tax year just ended, total road user taxation yielded more than 1/10 of all taxation revenue, making it the third largest contributor in Britain.

## TAXATION RECEIPTS 1985/86 BUDGET FORECAST

	£bn
Income tax	35.2
VAT	18.3
Motoring	12.5†
Tobacco	4.3
Drink	4.2
All Taxation Receipts	95.1

† includes estimate of £3.05bn for VAT on motor vehicles.

The motor industry contributes some £12,000 million to Britain's GDP – almost equivalent to the cost of running the National Health Service. This makes it the largest producer of wealth among our manufacturing industries.

It's one of the country's largest employers, too. More than 1,600,000 jobs stem directly or indirectly from the motor and related industries.

Where this leads is to the simple conclusion that burdening the motorist again and again with discriminatory, anti-social and ever-spiralling taxation is counterproductive in every sense.

## ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Private cars provide personal mobility for the whole community. They give us transport for essential services, such as doctors and police.

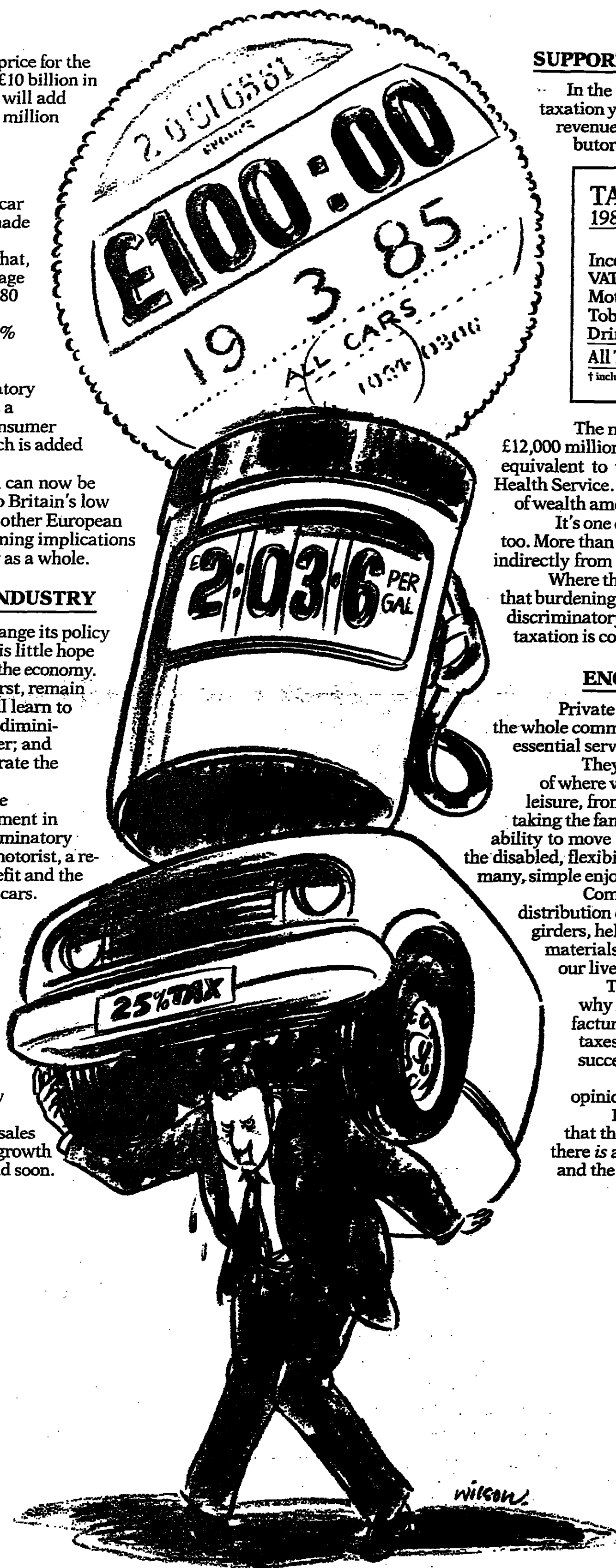
They provide freedom of travel, choice of where we live and work, opportunities for leisure, from participating in sport to simply taking the family for a day out. They give us the ability to move things around, more mobility for the disabled, flexibility for the businessman, and, for many, simple enjoyment.

Commercial vehicles provide efficient distribution of products from cornflakes to girders, helping to keep costs down of goods, materials and services which touch all our lives.

There can be no convincing reason why road users and motor manufacturers should be penalised by higher taxes at every turn, and with every successive budget.

Write to your MP. Make your opinions known.

It's never been more important that the Government be made aware there is a limit to how much the motorist, and the motor industry, can bear.





# Gandhi sends non-aligned peace mission to Gulf War as Iraq gains ground

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Iraq continued land and air attacks against Iranian forces and installations yesterday as Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, called on the two nations to stop fighting.

Mr Gandhi told the Indian Parliament that a mission which he had sent to Iran and Iraq would convey the concern of the non-aligned countries and urge them to seek to end the conflict, exchange war prisoners and refrain from attacking civilian targets.

There were suggestions in Delhi that Iran was showing a slightly more flexible attitude towards ending the war. Nevertheless, in a message to mark the Iranian new year, Ayatollah Khomeini pledged that Iran would continue the conflict until President Saddam Hussein of Iraq had been ousted from power.

Western intelligence sources believe that Iraq has now regained virtually all the land

it had lost in the last 10 days of heavy fighting in the al-Hawizah marshes area north of Basra.

Mopping-up operations, however, appear to be continuing with a military communiqué from Baghdad speaking of two brigades and commando units launching an attack against Iranian forces on the southern front.

It is thought in the West that with the failure of this latest Iranian attack, involving perhaps about 100,000 men, the stalemate which had existed for the past 12 months.

The pattern may be for a general distribution of forces along the border between the countries, with sporadic attacks, and a probable increase of terrorist activity in Iraq.

The Iranian assault on Iraq through the al-Hawizah marshes is assessed have failed partly because of Iraqi air

superiority, but also because of difficulties in operating through flooded marshland, which made it impossible to bring up tanks and generally created logistic difficulties.

There is one important respect in which the situation appears to have changed. Until recently one of the mysteries of the war has been the failure of Iraq to make full use of its air supremacy. This has been put down to a fear of incurring losses.

However, during the last three months or so Iraq appears to have concluded that airpower may be its only way of forcing Iran to the negotiating table.

and during that period it is estimated to have flown as many as 300 sorties on some days. With a five-to-one advantage in combat aircraft, it is thought that Iraq may now continue its new-found willingness to press home this advantage.



Guest speaker: President Alfonsín of Argentina, with Vice President Bush behind, acknowledging Congress applause after calling for talks with Britain on the Falklands.

## Dead girl's fortune will go to peace movement

Auckland (Reuter) - A \$550,000 fortune left to a New Zealand schoolgirl who died after a nude swim at her school in England will be used for social change and against the spread of nuclear weapons.

Cathy Pelly, aged 16, was found dead in July last year after nude bathing at Folly Pool on the River Dart, which runs through the estate of the Dartington Hall School in Devon.

She was heiress to the fortune of her grandfather, Mr Tony Clark, whose shoes sell throughout the world. He died three weeks ago leaving millions of dollars to his family.

A coroner's jury returned an open verdict on Cathy's death "because there was something else behind it" which the jury did not know.

Her parents have set up The Cathy Pelly Memorial Trust. Most of the \$480,000 estate left to her will be put into it.

Her father, Mr Raymond Pelly, said the trust fund was based in England but was available to people in New Zealand.

His daughter had very strong convictions against nuclear weapons and spent much time with other nuclear protesters at Greenham Common, he said.

Evidence was heard at the inquest that a school caretaker, who gave Cathy a kangaroo lesson shortly before she drowned, initially confessed to killing her.

## Sudan's religious conflict Ministers seized in mass arrests

From Michael Prest, Khartoum

By detaining up to 200 members of the Muslim Brotherhood last week, President Gaafar Muhammad Nimeiry of Sudan impressed on his impoverished and despairing country one brutal fact: however unpopular the regime is after 16 years, it has not lost the knack of survival.

The number and seniority of those arrested showed that if little else works properly in Sudan these days the effectiveness of the secret police is unimpaired. The most important of those picked up in the early hours of March 10, was Hassan Abdalla al-Turabi, the presidential adviser on foreign affairs.

He is a leader of Muslim Brotherhood and instrumental in introducing the Muslim law or Sharia in 1983.

The detainees also included Muhammad Adam Eisa, Minister of State at the Attorney-General's office, Ali Osman Taha, leader of the People's Assembly, Yassin Omar al-Imam, chairman of the Sudan Socialist Union, the country's only legal political party, and Mikashfi Taha al-Kabbashi, chairman of the Criminal Court of Appeal.

In all 11 members of the Government were dismissed, and among the others arrested there were reliably said to be 10 army officers - an especially ominous sign for President Nimeiry since he came to power at the head of a military coup.

A third-benefit Shummo: Mr Ali Muhammad Nimeiry, has since admitted that 80 people were detained. But diplomatic sources in Khartoum are convinced the real number was a lot higher.

Attacking the Muslim Brotherhood, conservative religious groups of whom President Nimeiry has been suspicious for some time, was an astute political move designed to reinforce the regime in several ways. First, it was a pre-

emptive strike. No firm evidence of a conspiracy was proffered, but the brothers' chances of mounting a successful coup have certainly diminished.

Second, the arrests created a scapegoat for the more resented aspects of the Sharia.

Many Sudanese Muslims supported the idea of Sharia but were dismayed at the way it was imposed and enforced. Sudanese Christians viewed the whole exercise with apprehension.

President Nimeiry lost no time, after announcing the shunting of a plot, in saying that there would be no "harshness and oppression in the name of religion". The fall of Mikashfi, who as chairman of the Decisive Justice Court was responsible last year for 54 hand amputations and 15 cross-amputations (a hand and a foot), will not be regretted by most Sudanese.

A third-benefit for President Nimeiry is that once again he has diverted attention from the ills his own regime has fostered.

Perhaps the greatest benefit to accrue to the regime from the arrests, however, is the united support of the United States, without which Sudan might disintegrate.

It would be unwise to expect the Sharia to be quickly dismantled. The tactic of embracing one group and then repudiating it has marked President Nimeiry's hold on power. But entirely rejecting the Sharia after you have introduced it yourself in a largely Muslim country would be difficult.

Rather, the more draconian aspects of the Sharia will quietly lapse. President Nimeiry seems to have repeated successfully his old trick of making concessions to public opinion while cracking down hard on effective opposition.

## Turkish anger grows against Bulgaria

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

Tens of thousands of Turks, waving flags and banners, protested against the forced Bulgarianization of ethnic Turks in Bulgaria at a mass rally in Istanbul yesterday under the

sponsorship of the Federation of Immigrants Associations, while the Government continued to organize international pressure on Sofia.

Addressing more than 40,000 people, Mr Mehmet Caves, president of the Balkan

Turks Culture and Solidarity Association, accused the Bulgarian authorities of carrying out a wanton campaign.

He ridiculed the Bulgarian Authorities' contentions that ethnic Turks were voluntarily opting for Bulgarian names,

## Le Pen sues over torture allegation

From Diana Geddes, Paris

M Jean-Marie Le Pen, the litigious leader of the extreme-right National Front, returned to the courts again yesterday to sue the satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* for publishing allegations that as a young lieutenant during the Algerian War, he had tortured and executed suspected Algerian terrorists.

He has taken out another libel action against the respected left-wing daily, *Libération*, after the publication of similar detailed charges by five former members of the Algerian National Liberation Front; the son of an Algerian allegedly executed in public by M Le Pen; a former Dutch member of the same French Foreign Legion parachute regiment as Le Pen, who claims to have been present, while some of the alleged tortures were carried out; and the former mayor of Algiers who claimed that one of his servants had been tortured by Le Pen.

Electric shocks, beating, and the forced swallowing of water were the principal forms of torture allegedly carried out by Le Pen or administered in his presence during the interrogation of suspected terrorists in Algiers in 1957.

Electric shocks, beating, and the forced swallowing of water were the principal forms of torture allegedly carried out by Le Pen or administered in his presence during the interrogation of suspected terrorists in Algiers in 1957.

On Wednesday, Maître Jean Roussel, a Marseille lawyer and the only National Front candidate to have been elected in last Sunday's local cantonal elections, was found guilty of inciting racial hatred by a Marseille court. He was fined 5,000 francs (£450) and ordered to have the judgement published at his expense in three national and three local newspapers.

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## Soviet diplomat killed in second Delhi attack

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

A Soviet diplomat, Mr V. Khizichenko, was shot dead yesterday four days after his colleague, Mr Igor Gezha, disappeared on the streets of Delhi.

Police said two men "of Asian origin" fired five shots from a semi-automatic weapon at Mr Khizichenko's car near the Soviet Embassy and escaped on a motor cycle. His wife and driver were slightly injured in the attack and released after hospital treatment.

Police are still searching the homes of Afghan nationals in Delhi in the belief that Mr Gezha, a third secretary in the embassy's information section, may have been kidnapped by guerrilla groups resisting the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

## Japan to halt commercial whaling in 1988

Tokyo (AP) - faced with a possible sharp cut in its quotas in the 200-mile US fishing zone, Japan will halt commercial whaling by 1988, newspapers reported yesterday.

Government officials said they would withdraw objections by the end of the month to an International Whaling Commission resolution calling for a ban on commercial whaling, ending a self-declared exemption to the ban.

In 1982, the IWC called for a ban on all whaling throughout the world beginning in 1986, but Japan and other countries exempted themselves.

Last November, Japan and the US agreed on a deal that allowed Japan to continue hunting sperm whales until 1988 without losing rights to fish in US waters.

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In violation of all humanitarian principles and recognized international conventions including the 1925 Geneva Protocol, the regime of Iraq has once again deployed chemical gas in its war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and turned down the request of the Secretary General of the United Nations to desist from the use of chemical gas and bombs on the basis of the international prohibition of chemical weapons.

We hereby invite enquiries from all those familiar with these substances and experienced in treating injuries of this nature, or those Doctors prepared to treat the victims of chemical warfare on a humanitarian basis in this country or in Iran.

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The Fiesta was the best-selling small car of 1984. But then that's not really surprising. It's a car that delivers an exceptionally big return for a relatively small investment.

It has superb economy. The 1.1 engine returns 57.6 mpg at a constant 56 mph.\* The 1.6 diesel is even better; 74.3 mpg at 56 mph.\* It has excellent performance. The 1.3 engine tops 100 mph† The 1.6 engine in the XR2 can do 112 mph†

It has high levels of trim and equipment. In short, the Fiesta represents an efficient, exciting range of cars whose popularity has never been higher and whose resale value has never been better. Mind you, the return on your investment doesn't stop there.

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\*Government fuel economy figs – mpg (litres/100 km). Fiesta 1.1 4-speed: Constant 56 mph (90 kmh) 57.6 (4.9), constant 75 mph (120 kmh) 41.5 (6.8), urban driving 45.6 (6.2). Fiesta 1.6 diesel 5-speed: Constant 56 mph (90 kmh) 74.3 (3.8), constant 75 mph (120 kmh) 50.4 (5.6), urban driving 56.5 (5.0). †Ford computed figs.

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Japan to halt  
commercial  
baling in 1985



## Student elections prove Greek right is gaining on Papandreou

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Substantial gains by the conservatives in the Greek student elections on Wednesday are seen as reflecting the polarization of political forces here against a smouldering background of constitutional crisis.

Final results in the election of student union executives were still outstanding, but the student organization affiliated to the conservative opposition party New Democracy was clearly vying for first place with the Socialists and the Communists. This has never happened before in Greece.

Such results in a field in which the Greek right wing traditionally counts few friends, are heartening enough for Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the New Democracy leader, to press his demand for immediate parliamentary elections.

Mr Mitsotakis put his call for prompt elections directly to Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Socialist Prime Minister. Mr Mitsotakis said after their meeting that he had warned the Prime Minister that his party would challenge the legality of the next President of the republic if he can only be elected on the controversial vote of the acting president, Mr Yiannis Alevras.

Mr Alevras became interim president of the republic following the resignation of President Karamanlis, because he is the Speaker of Parliament and the constitution assigns this role to him. Constitutional experts, however, insist that while discharging the presidential duties, he cannot cast a vote.

The Socialist Government which is anxious to secure the minimum of 180 votes out of 300 to elect its candidate, Judge Christos Sartzetakis, in the third round of voting on March 29, asked Parliament, where it had a majority, to decide on this issue.

After an acrimonious debate with ugly incidents on Wednesday night, Parliament upheld Mr Alevras's right to vote in the presidential election.

In the first round of the presidential election last Sunday, in which a 200-vote majority was needed, the Government's nominee received 178 votes.

A second round is due tomorrow when again 200 votes are needed. If Mr Sartzetakis fails to reach the 180 minimum in the third round on March 29, Parliament will be dissolved, elections held and the next Parliament will resume the effort to elect the head of state.

## Surprise end to dramatic Alaska dog sled race



Libby Riddles (left below) with two of her dogs (above) passes under the wooden arch marking the finishing line.



## Night sea dash gives woman victory

NOME, Alaska (Renter) — Libby Riddles has become the first woman to win the 1,049-mile Iditarod Trail dog sled race from Anchorage to Nome.

Some 2,000 spectators lined Front Street to watch Riddles, aged 28, drive her 13-dog team across the finishing line ahead of 45 other mushers still in the race.

Her official time was 17 days, 20 minutes, 17 seconds, the fourth slowest in the race's 13-year history. The race was

halted twice for fear the racers would lose their way when fierce storms obliterated the trail.

Riddles, a resident of the small town of Teller, Alaska, about 75 miles from Nome, won \$50,000, the biggest prize ever awarded by the race organizers.

Sixty-one teams left Anchorage on February 28 at the start of the race. Fourteen dropped out along the way, and one musher was disqualified for alleged cruelty to his dogs.

This year's race has been among the most dramatic on record. At one stage, a moose collided with one sled team killing several of the dogs and later a helicopter dropped food to both competitors and dogs, marooned by blizzards.

Many competitors stopped at the Bering Sea, which though frozen over, was, they feared, unsafe to cross. Riddles gambled on the thickness of the ice and went across at night.

"Commuting to work in conditions like these every day is no picnic. And there's no chance to relax once you get there," Tony Imossi's words.

He's employed by a firm of busy city solicitors.

It keeps him on his toes.

And there's no way he'd succeed in such a demanding profession if he was content to be just a passenger.

Yet at weekends, Tony takes on an equally challenging role — as a Territorial Army Officer.

"The TA takes quite a bit of my spare time, it's true. But the rewards are tremendous.

And being trained to be fitter and more alert gives me an edge when I'm back in the office."

It was probably his natural drive and initiative, plus an ability to get on with people that made Tony try for a commission in his chosen regiment.

It wasn't easy — he'd be the first to tell you how tough the training and selection processes are.

But today he's a 2nd Lieutenant, and Commander of a Platoon of thirty men.

It's a serious undertaking.

The TA accounts for a third of the Army's strength, and in the event of war Tony would find himself commanding his men under battle conditions alongside regular Army units.

There are many areas of responsibility in the TA today, all just as vital as Tony's, and several ways to become an Officer.



Like Tony, some people start as soldiers, whilst others can be selected to come in as potential Officers.

If you think you've got what it takes in

## Most days

# he fights for a seat on the 8.15.

# One day it could be for something more important.



terms of fitness and ability to handle a task like this, and you're prepared to devote both yourself and a fair part of your spare time to it, we'd like to hear from you.

You'll be well paid for the time you put in of course.

Your time commitment will be at least six weekends and two weeks camp per year, plus some weekday evenings.

But if you're anything like Tony you'll find that the real rewards lie in the camaraderie, teamwork, and sense of achievement that the TA experience gives you.

## Officer

Find out more: if you are between 18 and 28 years of age and think you have the abilities we're looking for, complete the coupon and post it to Major Nigel Lee (Dept. T1E), Duke of York's H.Q., Centre Block, Chelsea, SW3 4SG or contact your nearest TAVR Association. (We're in the phone book under 'Army').

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Educational Qualifications \_\_\_\_\_

## The Territorials

## THE ARTS: 1

### Theatre

#### A Private Treason Palace, Watford

Vivaldi's "Spring" heralds a happy occasion: a 36-year-old cancer woman, secretary to a high-octane Whitehall committee, is marrying in a rosy fit the 22-year-old dole claimant she met on the Tube. With jumbo tactlessness she invites to the wedding her former lover, the 65-year-old retired mandarin who taught her most of what she knows, in and out of bed. Appalled by her choice of husband, he regards her marriage as an act of personal betrayal and sets out to blight the couple's happiness.

Six months on, the working wife is glowingly pregnant, while the house-husband, though content to cook and chat in her chic Thameside loft, finds himself nibbled by jealousy — of her work, of her boss and particularly of her aged, snoring ex whom he irascibly but presciently calls "a bloody spy". We can tell already it is going to end in a furious jacuzzi of tears.

In a second half fizzing with revelations we learn that the distinguished ex is indeed a minor mole: that the young husband was once a card-carrying Communist; that his sometime male lover died of cancer; that his wife had a younger brother who also died of cancer.

It is the very four-square rigidity of these intersecting parallels that makes *A Private Treason* such a dead thing. The protagonists appear to be illustrating principles rather than being themselves; their

oppositions are kept in equilibrium in order for the role-reversals to be dutifully milked. The piece creaks with Priestleyesque art of keeping an audience in their seats without engaging their emotions.

The novelist P. D. James is famous for her interesting "thrillers" which though sedulously plotted contain odd, baffling solocisms. In this, her first stage play, her writing strengths — an instinct for motivation, an elegiac wistfulness of tone — are betrayed by some club-footed lines. "I was dying to look at David but I daren't," caused Susannah York's tongue to stumble — and I think it may again. Later on she has a line beginning with the clause "If it wasn't he... Well, if it wasn't he (one wonders), then perhaps it were him?"

Of the players it must be said that Miss York is the most moistly beaming and Stephen Rashbrook as her young stud the most zestfully energetic, though given a close race by Angela Bruce as the chirpy resting actress he used to squat with. The jealous-old traitor is fastidiously rendered by Robert Edlison whose Old Vic modulations lend his part a dreamy other-worldliness. Sheila Mitchell as Miss York's mother supposedly comes from Hereford but sounds Home Counties. Peter Schofield as the lugubrious Russian spy-master completes the improbabilities by accepting a glass of Smirnoff without the shadow of a blush.

The producer is Leon Rubin.

Martin Cropper



Approaching a tearful conclusion: Susannah York, Stephen Rashbrook

### Television

## An ear for despair

Cala Lane is a very feminine writer; her dialogue proceeds in graceful curves, defining character and unfolding narrative in the minutiae of domestic life and the nuances of emotional response. In *I Woke Up One Morning* (BBC1), her new series which began last night, it was odd to hear this idiosyncratic manner of speaking used by a group of men. Indeed, her characters were caught in a kind of high noon of machismo, held in psychiatric wards of a hospital where they were receiving treatment for alcoholism.

"Valium for breakfast, valium for lunch — by the time it was dinner-time his brain was on its back with its feet in the air", said one man's girlfriend; from the woman's viewpoint the day was divided neatly into mealtimes while from the man's viewpoint any reality at all induced unbearable anxiety which could only be blotted out by drugs or alcohol. Like Alan Bennett, Cala Lane has an acute ear for despair among the *petit bourgeois*.

As the story unfolded it became clear that the four men had little in common other than their addiction to drink. There was a gentleman farmer, an Irish tramp, a lusty young mechanic and a fourth about whom we discovered little except that his wife was obsessed with green vegetables. A fifth man appeared only as a mute shape under a blanket. "I think Eddie's going to come out today", said the repellently brisk therapist, who displayed an absurd inclination to look on the bright side of life. In this last

bastion of masculinity the worst punishment she could devise was washing the tea-towels.

The first instalment of a serial drama is always cursed by the technical imperative to set the boundary stones of recognition within which the story will be told. The script swept away much of this awkwardness, but its best efforts were muted by uncertain direction and casting. The dialogue alone could not overcome the fact that Frederick Jaeger as the farmer looked more like a sports-car salesman and Peter Caffrey as the Irishman seemed far too clean, intelligent and aware to be one of the lost figures who nurse bottles under railway arches.

At the same time, on BBC2, the *Forty Minutes* series was concluding its inexcusable investigation into adultery, called *The Eternal Triangle*. This has consisted of extended, extremely dull interviews with a handful of people who have experienced one way or another, extramarital affairs. At least two of the selected band of interviewees seemed to be almost professional unconventionalists — people who made much of their shocking lifestyle but seemed to have little else to distinguish them. It would have been absurd to pretend that this small, unbalanced and mostly exhibitionist group were representative of anything or had anything significant to say about marriage or its breakdown.

Celia Brayfield

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By the year 2020 a vast slice of Brazil's rain forest may have disappeared. Alan Franks reports on a London exhibition that celebrates vanishing cultures and civilizations

# Bringing a rain forest to the heart of London

If you talk to a Brazilian about the destruction of his country's great rain forests, he will probably shrug his shoulders and point out more pressing problems on the government's mind — like starvation, urban violence, unemployment, inflation and the repayment of a massive IMF loan.

Ah yes, you reply, but is it not rather short-sighted to make such colossal inroads into the forests to "reclaim" land which will be farmed to exhaustion and uselessness within a decade? Another shrug of the shoulders and an expression that says *manhao*, the Portuguese counterpart of Spain's more famous *mañana*. In other words, it is a problem for tomorrow.

It is now almost an ecological cliché that by the year 2020, if encroachment continues at its present rate, forests that once occupied an area the size of Europe will have disappeared to be replaced by a vast desert wasteland.

## The museum is like a jungle... the air is drenched and heavy

Behind this arid certainty in a country apparently resigned to self-pillage is the obscure human dimension: obscure, because so few white men have penetrated the jungle fastness and absorbed the way of life of the Indian population.

The *Hidden Peoples of the Amazon*, which opens today at the Museum of Mankind in London, is an exhibition to explain and celebrate that way of life. The irony is that, even as the exhibition takes place, the objects of its study daily become the victims of their disappearing world.

The museum has been turned into a jungle so convincingly that, as you enter, you seem to sense a heavy, drenched quality

of air, as though you have just walked into the tropical house at Kew. It is no illusion, for a new heating plant has been specially installed. The place has taken on the darkness of a basement, shielded from the sharp electric sun by a massive canopy of gauze leaves. One of the most striking aspects is the reconstruction of a huge Tukano communal house, the hub of domestic life and scene of religious ceremonies.

It is almost a home from home for Dr Stephen Hugh-Jones, moving among the hammocks and gourds and painted pottery with an affection borne of memory and anticipation. For he is, as ever, between expeditions to the Indians of the Colombian/Brazilian borderlands. He is also an intriguing British exhibit in his own right — as intrepid as Blashford Snell or Fienness. He teaches social anthropology at King's College, Cambridge; here is the rigour of an academic and the measured eccentricity of a 19th century explorer.

Dr Hugh-Jones, who played a major role in collating the exhibition, traces his obsession with the tropics back to a childhood in Jamaica as the son of a doctor. His first journey to north-west Amazonia was in 1968, when he was a Cambridge anthropology graduate in his early twenties.

He and his wife, Christine, effectively turned up in the jungle one day, knocked on a front door, and asked to stay. "I think we were the first, well, certainly the first English people to go and live like that with the Barasana. We were scared, I have to admit. You see, the Indians' only previous experience of a white man would have been the odd explorer or missionary."

"They assumed we would be gone in two days, but we stayed for 22 months. After a while, I began to go to work with the



Fighting to save a vanishing continent: anthropologist Dr Stephen Hugh-Jones in front of an exhibition picture of his beloved Amazon Indians. Top right: The Indian and his environment, both imminent victims. Bottom right: the area under threat (tribal lands in bold)

men and my wife stayed with the women. They had gathered weren't missionaries after all, because we didn't wear cassocks and spend all our time praying." Even the formidable language barrier was eventually broken down. "Obviously it was a problem to begin with. They had no word for 'word' or for the other components of language, so we had to, for example, walk, and say 'I walk,' and then try to learn their word for the same verb."

Few can have given themselves over with quite such commitment to such an alien existence. At one point the young Hugh-Jones even sub-

jected himself to the tribe's initiation rites, a bizarre programme of events, including three nights locked into a darkened room and being soundly whipped. There followed a period of several weeks eating nothing but ants' heads and cassava bread. As he was about half the age of the pubescent boys being ritually accepted into a man's world — and a different colour into the bargain — he was a perfect target for "a really serious whipping."

By the end of their stay, their hosts were genuinely upset to see them go. The couple, for their part, promised to return. Almost a decade later, they did, this time with a girl of eight and a boy of five.

The exhibition demonstrates that all is not violence among the Barasana, the Desana, the Makuna and their neighbours. There are the intriguing contours of the pottery vessels, a craft which is among the oldest in tropical forest culture. It is believed that pottery fragments point to the cultivation of manioc as far back as the third millennium BC.

There are deceptively elaborate forms of body decoration with plant pigments, the extra-

ordinary large wooden lip-plugs of the Tchikrin tribe, and the complex ceremonies in which marriage, kinship and the social structure are presented in union with the cosmic order.

Even now there remains a faith throughout the tribes of the region in the existence of a clearly defined spirit world. The discrepancies of belief, tribe by

## As the forest goes, the tribesmen's skills will perish too

tribe, are bewildering, but they share the premise that all men can establish contact with that world through the wearing of ceremonial dress and the use of hallucinogenic drugs. (Only the *shaman*, or priest, can see life's "other-world" counterpart at any time).

One of the greatest tragedies in the imminent passing of these cultures is the loss of centuries of expertise in forest agriculture and natural life. As Western naturalists admit, the tribesmen's knowledge of their environment is encyclopaedic — more so than even the best-versed of European academics.

Once the forest goes, these accumulated skills will themselves perish, leaving the rest of the world the poorer.

So there is a great sadness to be sensed at the Museum of Mankind, and a reluctant conclusion that the reservation system offers the best of a very poor set of options for the tribes. As the introduction of a book bearing the same name as the exhibition points out, traditional Indian economies require large land areas to survive.

The inability of the Indian to defend this need in the modern world results in agonising situations which are difficult to resolve. Reservations such as the large Xingu Indian Park, set up by Claudio and Orlando Villas Boas, must be seen as the most acceptable of alternatives for the protection of Indian interests. It does not inhibit the curiosity and interest in the outside world which many, especially the younger ones, feel but it allows them to accept or reject what they find there.

*The Hidden Peoples of the Amazon*, by Elizabeth Carmichael, Stephen Hugh-Jones, Brian Moser and Donald Taylor, is published by British Museum Publications Limited (£4.50).

## Reading between the lines

I have been taking *The Times* for only a few months, but the daily newspaper had begun to pall and the time had come for a change. I was somewhat dismayed by *The Times's* reputation. Would... his alleged... coverage of current affairs... way above my head? However, I decided to give it a whirl and was pleasantly surprised to find that I could understand most of its contents. Nevertheless, I have discovered disturbing limitations in my vocabulary which inhibit 100 per cent comprehension.

I know that the journal prides itself on quality above all, so I am sure that the words I have in mind are not simply misprints of the kind that are a feature of a certain contemporary newspaper. As they do not yet appear in the dictionaries I have consulted, I can only conclude that they are new additions to the language, perhaps coined specially by *The Times* staff as a public duty to fill gaps in the national lexicon.

In this bicentenary year, therefore, it is right and proper that we should pay tribute to *The Times* for its rich and varied contributions to the English language. I have speculated over the meanings of some of these tantalizing new jewels. More learned readers will be doubtless able to suggest better definitions, but I offer below my interpretations of some of the more attractive words that I have met recently.

**ADMINISH**, v. & i. (Contraction of "add" and "diminish") Take more away (particularly money) while appearing to give something back. (Specially used in relation to Budgets presented by Chancellors of the Exchequer of the persuasions.)

**AIRPOT**, n. Sanitary arrangement employed in early passenger airlines.

**ELIZANT**, a. Pertaining to myrmecophiles.

**FOSTLING**, a. Child (often orphaned) of hard-drinking Australian.

**GEGUN**, n. (Rita) Japanese hereditary commander-in-chief of cavalry regiment.

**GIZZY**, v. & adv. (Contraction of "giggle" and "grizzle") Descriptive of normally abstemious woman after cocktail party.

**MOLLYCOBBLED**, a. (Archaic) Pertaining to footwear made as a sideline by female Irish fishermen.

**PATLY**, a. (West Country dialect) Descriptive of meadow habitually occupied by cattle.

**PRUPLE**, v. i. (onomatopoeic) Quietly emit wind from the mouth following over-indulgence.

I trust that *The Times* will eventually publish its own dictionary in which all will be revealed. A lot of these new words are clear candidates for the future, and they should sort out the men from the boys in the national championship. As a supreme accolade, many will no doubt keep Frank Muir and Arthur Marshall busy in 21st century editions of the BBC's *Call My Bluff*, which by then will have exhausted the rest of the English language.

Philip Cook

## MUSEUM DATES

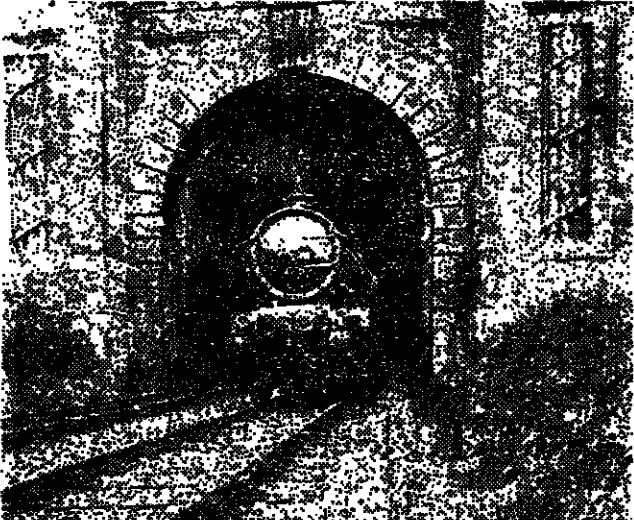
There is a programme of free lectures at the museum's film theatre each Friday beginning at 1pm.

April 12: Peoples and Cultures of the Rain Forest  
April 19: A Naturalist in Guyana  
April 26: Bibles, Pills and Pens: Agents of Change in north-east Amazonia  
May 3: Agricultural Innovation and Survival: the Peruvian Campa-Ashaninka  
May 10: Indian Women of the Amazon  
May 17: Journeying to the Amazon: the Anglo-Colombian Recording Expedition 1980-1981  
May 24: Human Use and Abuse of the Rain Forest

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## A real sport for kings and rabbits

Many will remember the shock a few years ago when *The Times* decided to put news on the front page and relegating classified advertisements to the back. It was about that time, too, that the sports page gave the simple name of Tennis to what had hitherto been called Lawn Tennis, and to allot to the sport of kings the otiose appellation Real Tennis. It seemed the beginning of the end.

This was, of course, the game at which Henry V vowed to match his racquets to the Dauphin's balls, and at which Henry VIII lost many a set. In France in the 16th century there were well over 200 courts in use (now there are only two). Both Wellington and Napoleon played at Fontainebleau, attracting the comment of a contemporary professional: "My God! Wellington was not very good; as for Napoleon, he did not even have any aptitude." The game flourished in the 19th century, to be superseded finally by Lawn Tennis.

Today Real Tennis which most people didn't even know existed is undergoing a revival. Many of the 20 or so courts up and down the country are developing clubs with more and more members. Now we have the first comprehensive manual of the game, written by reigning world champion Chris Ronaldson, *maître joueur* at The Royal Tennis Court at Hampton Court, who last week successfully defended his title against Australian challenger Wayne Davies, professional at the Tennis and Racquet Club, New York.

A manual of the game is certainly badly needed, because Real Tennis is the most complicated of all ball games, both for player and spectator. It is the only racket game, for example, in which a point is not necessarily won outright if a player misses the ball at the end of a rally. If this happens on the service side the point is held in abeyance, and when the players change ends the one who missed (now the receiver) has a chance to win back the "chase" by hitting to a better length.



First service: Late 16th century view of Real Tennis

Rules are difficult enough to understand even in theory. It takes years to master them instinctively and to adapt one's strategy to every stage of play.

The court itself contains a number of frustrating features, deriving from its cloistered origins. There are three winning openings, for instance and a slanting buttress called the tambour, which deflects the ball across court at unpredictable angles. Along three of the sides (but only three), above a series of netted galleries, runs the sloping "penthouse roof", on to which the ball is served.

Ronaldson says there are at least 50 kinds of service. He likes to enter a competition with half a dozen main ones at the ready, plus another 10 or so to be pulled out once a set. In Lawn Tennis the service dominates, now to excess, but in Real Tennis its job is just to fox the receiver so as to forestall a punishing return. The return, not the service, is the aggressive stroke; but a weak return lays the receiver open to an attack on the tambour — which, unfortunately for him, is on his side.

The floor and walls of the court are of stone; the net sags by two feet in the middle; the ball is solid, made up of 13 yards of cotton webbing wound round an old wine cork bound tightly with linen thread and covered with felt sewn up with a finer lined thread. It is not true,

the penthouse. He retired as undefeated champion in 1954.

It may be doubted whether Real Tennis will ever invade the consciousness of the wider public. Courts are expensive to build; the play is hard to televise. Let's just hope it doesn't get taken over by the Young Fogeys. Meanwhile Ronaldson's book, with its profound analyses of strategy, excellent action photographs and diagrams of play and interesting reminiscences will do much to promote a lasting interest in this noble, indeed royal, game.

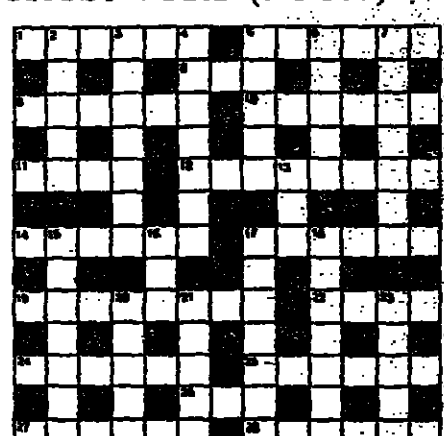
Colin Haycraft

*Tennis: A Cut above the Rest* (Hampshire Court) £14.95. Colin Haycraft, chairman of Duckworth, publishers, was Public Schools Rackets Champion and played Squash Rackets for England.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 601)

ACROSS  
1 Goalkeeper (6)  
2 Thracian (6)  
3 Novel (3)  
4 Bound mouth (6)  
5 Beethoven's 3rd symphony (6)  
6 Bleaching vat (4)  
7 Wife of Orestes (8)  
8 Large scissors (6)  
9 Concealed rifleman (6)  
10 Congregate (8)  
11 Long stride (4)  
12 Paris tower (6)  
13 Jap. unarmed combat (6)  
14 Jelly like colloid (3)  
15 Medium's meeting (6)  
16 Bear (6)

DOWN  
1 Central African ruminant (3)  
2 NW Italian region (7)  
3 Eternal (7)  
4 Blasphemy (5)  
5 2 central African ruminant (3)  
6 Pedal vehicle (7)  
7 Desire (3)  
8 Unfriendly (7)  
9 Collide with (3)



6 Dodge (5)  
7 Bad-mannered (7)  
8 Impish (5)  
9 Swelling (5)  
10 Father (5)

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## FRIDAY PAGE

# A mellowed Mosley's labour of love

Lady Mosley has been a hate-figure since 1940, but have people vilified someone who doesn't really exist? Mark Steyn finds that she makes a rather disappointing right-wing monster



Diana, when she was one of the dazzling Mitford sisters

"People think I'm a sort of gorgon," says Lady Mosley cheerfully. After three and a half years in Holloway Prison and 40 years of public vilification, she is surprisingly jolly about being the unacceptable Mitford sister. "Oh, I'm so used to it. They've invented a Diana Mosley who doesn't exist."

The Diana Mosley who does exist has lived since 1951 near Paris, at the outer reaches of the city's RER rail network. The gorgon's lair is Le Temple de la Gloire, built in 1800 for General Moreau and sited incongruously in a maze of residential streets of drab suburban villas. But then everything here is slightly incongruous: a 75-year-old widow, in the elegant first-floor drawing-room of her *Dixtore* swans, recalling the disgusting, filthy conditions in prison, and interrupted in her reminiscences by the announcement that "luncheon is served, m'lady".

Downstairs, the subject changes to more recent matters. Lady Mosley talks wittily and provocatively about Mrs Thatcher and the Oxford dons, Grenada, the miners' strike and her fellow Holloway Old Girl Sarah Tisdall. She praises

## 6 My husband was a politician of the centre and so am I

Chinese take aways and Asian food stores, and takes an unceasing delight in the reselection problems of a certain Labour MP. But to anyone expecting a right-wing monster she is something of a disappointment. She advocates increased spending on housing and infrastructure and has a positively Heathite/SDPish obsession with a united Europe. "I wouldn't call myself right-wing," she says firmly. "My husband always considered

himself a politician of the centre, and so am I."

She still has the capacity to outrage, but more often than not there is a twinkle in her eye. Indeed her sense of humour, despite life's vicissitudes, is remarkable. One gets a vague feeling, reading the transcripts of her wartime interrogation by Lord Birkett, that the humourless bureaucrat is having his leg pulled: "Is Hitler still a friend of yours?" "I have not seen him for some time." (By then, she had been in prison for some time.)

She is not bitter about her imprisonment without trial and without charge. "I felt they were wrong from beginning to end, and I still feel it now. The worst thing was not knowing how long it would last. At least, if you've been sentenced, you can count off the days and months. When you're detained without charge, it goes on and on with no end in sight."

"I used to think 'When the war is over, there'll be a huge fuss about this'. After all, my son Max was only a few weeks old when I was taken away. But there never was any fuss at all. I don't suppose I make a very good victim."

But even jail has its jokes. Her friend, Lord Berners, sent her cheery letters which eventually arrived via the prison censors and the Home Office. "What can I send you? Would you like a little file concealed in a peach?"

"It's hard to believe, but at the time I was arrested in 1940, it was really quite dangerous to be associated with me."

She became an instant hate-figure to people who had never met her. Even today, those who meet her and are prepared to admit that she's not totally ghastly feel obliged to add: "Of course, I entirely disagree with all her politics..." And in her case, blood has not always proved thicker than water. Her differences with her "left-wing" sister are well-known, but Lady Mosley recognizes that Jessica has received a better press. "I think being a communist makes you very popular," she says,

underlining "very" with a huge smile.

More than most people she has good cause to value true friendship and personal loyalty. Her latest book, *Loved Ones*, is a collection of pen portraits of close friends, from Lytton Strachey and Evelyn Waugh to less well-known figures. Waugh, who dedicated *Life's Brides* to her, became a close companion in 1929 when she was pregnant. He spent hours with her, and some years later wrote *Work Suspended* about the relationship between a young writer and a pregnant woman.

Her own writing career began with political publications connected with her husband and continued with *Books & Bookmen* to which she still contributes. Her autobiography, *A Life of Contrasts* was published in 1977, followed three years later by a biography of the Duchess of Windsor. "I don't believe you can really write about friends until they're dead, but she wasn't really alive by then."

She finds the current interest in female novelists of her youth amusing, attributing it to a silly English fascination with homosexuality. She describes Radclyffe Hall's "notorious" novel *The Well of Loneliness* as

"rather sad and very dull", and, although she enjoyed Victoria Glendinning's biography of Vita Sackville-West, considers it "a great comic masterpiece".

"And I think what people admire about her lover Violet Trefusis is simply that she was a lesbian. I quite liked Violet as a person, but I think she's an absurdly bad writer. You'd have to be very brave to go on reading her." She remembers when news of a phoney engagement between Violet and Gerald Berners appeared in a

## 6 Churchill's successors are a procession of lightweights

gossip column. Violet's mother insisted on a public withdrawal, so Berners obligingly sent a note to the newspapers: "Lord Berners has left Lesbos for the Isle of Man."

Today, Berners' novels are neglected, while, thanks to Virago, Violet Trefusis's are back in print. Lady Mosley is unimpressed. "Some women write very good novels, some write poetry, a few paint quite well. But there's no woman Goethe, no woman Beethoven. Perhaps there never will be. I've never seen why women shouldn't do anything they're capable of doing, but I'm not a feminist." Nor is she particularly impressed by Britain's first woman Prime Minister. She dismisses Churchill's successors as "a procession of political lightweights", and asked whether she includes the present occupant of No 10, replies tersely: "I'm afraid I do."

The last chapter of *Loved Ones* is a personal portrait of her husband "at home rather than at work". It is the first she has written about Sir Oswald since his death in 1980, since the release of the government papers concerning their imprisonment and since the publication of *Beyond The Pale*, by Nicholas Mosley. "It did



Mosley, whose politics 'are now so unfashionable'



Looking back without anger - Lady Mosley outside her 'slightly incongruous' home near Paris

annoy me," she says of her stepson's book. "But only for a week. The Times said he had emptied a bucket of mud over his father, and you can't say more than that. My husband would have found it very comic, but all the same it's very friendly, but he probably resented his father being so much cleverer."

She knows well enough that most critics will concentrate on the chapter in her book about her husband rather than the others, and she has no illusions about what they will write. "His politics are now so unfashionable," she says, using (for her) a rare understatement. "But I thought he was right, and I thought he had wonderful courage. And as I hope I've shown, he had an extraordinary glow."

Her husband's name is now firmly established as a term of political abuse in Britain. "But I

don't find it hurtful, because I despise them so. Of course, the comparison with Arthur Scargill, for example, is complete nonsense. The violent people on the picket lines were exactly the same as the people who used to come and break up my husband's meetings. But that's so often the case in life - they've turned the thing upside down."

She was not optimistic that history would vindicate him. "I'm afraid history just depends on who writes it."

"But the British are a great people, and I don't think you can ever change that. France between the wars did seem extraordinarily decadent and down the drain, and now it's so modern and, up to a couple of years ago, so well-governed. The British are sure to get it back. It's a question of time, and the right person turning up."

\**Loved Ones* is published by Sidgwick and Jackson, £12.95.

## Rebels with a yen for respectability

Japanese designers have thrown off their shrouds and uncovered the body beneath. Skinny knits, clinging trousers, conventional coats and even a wisp of romance have transformed Comme des Garçons. Designer Rei Kawakubo, whose models used to stride out in bruised make-up to warrior drumbeats, has backed off from the east-west fashion confrontation.

All that remains of the revolutionary Japanese message are jackets that button askew, coat sleeves that grow into pixie peaks and a few erratic hemlines or asymmetric wraps. New are the pleats, cut wide and flat for trousers or, for gymslip dresses, held up by a thick plait of the fabric across one shoulder. Finer pleats, in contrasts of black and white, come in every fabric from wool to silk.

Colour and pattern, especially bold tablecloth checks in black and white, brighten the once-sombre palette. Panna velvet, used on the gusset of a sleeve or mixed with satin, adds shine and texture.

The Japanese are no longer the avant garde in Paris. The shock of the new is now with the young creative fringe who have grouped themselves together outside the official fashion show tent, pitched in the sleet in the Tuilleries Gardens.

The Japanese are right to move on. But making form-fitting Western clothes and then playing them off key is a difficult fashion trick. At Comme des Garçons wrinkled-up jersey dresses that fitted nowhere on a tight bodice looked as though the pattern cutter was drunk.

"I am 100 per cent Japanese, but my clothes are European," says Junko Shimada, and indeed her stretchy, sexy clothes and funky fur-trims are miles away from purist Japanese style. But she has a Japanese belief in fabrics and texture. The cable was her theme and as well as knitting it traditionally in Aran wool for body-clinging tunics and leggings she printed it on to stretch jersey, tweed or even leather. This looked most stunning as a jacquard print of white cables twisting across black wool.

Yohji Yamamoto moved right into French tailoring with a fitted pale coat cutaway at the front. He used this shape for everything from knits to pin-stripes to his superb plain white shirts.

Short and sharp is the message from the younger Paris designers who have earned the right - and can afford £20,000 to put on a regular fashion show. Chantal Thomass has an obsession with the little girl look. She has fringes on her models and on her clothes and sent out the girls wearing gymslips and piliets. The most modern-looking was her stretch tube dress hanging from suspenders over a big white shirt.

Pattern is an important winter story, especially good as a leitmotif on Chantal Thomass's skiing parka with matching stirrup pants in stretch jersey. But this long show has everything from short to long with not much theme or direction.

## THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIONS PARIS



Top: Comme des Garçons' table cloth check buttoned askew. Above: Juniko Shimada's skinny fit cable print

Report by  
Suzy Menkes  
Photographs by  
Harry Kerr

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

### Cancer test that fails

Mr Kenneth Clark, the Health Minister, has been attacked for implying in a BBC interview that only women who are sexually active need a cervical smear.

Critics have been quick to point out that all women who have ever been sexually active are at risk. Doctors argue about the five year interval the minister advocates. Many feel that the gap is too long, but Mr Clark has a powerful supporter in Dr Gillian Gai, the Consultant Gynaecologist at Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

Dr Gai feels that the annual total of three million smears should be enough to reduce the rate of invasive cancer of the cervix by 75 per cent, provided that the right women were being

smear. But she says: "At the moment those most in need, the cigarette-smoking, married working-class mother from the North with a large family after marriage, and probably several partners before, is not screened."

In her view a disproportionate amount of the funds available for the national cytology services are used to screen, at short intervals, those least at risk. These are the middle-class women from the South East who probably had their first sexual contacts comparatively late in life, husbands living at home, do not smoke and have a small family.

"At the moment," says Dr Gai, "the middle-classes get the smears and the working-classes get the cancer."

Dr Gai is critical too of doctors' interpretations of smear reports. They are apt to represent dysplasia, a non-malignant change in the characteristics of the cervical cells, as being a positive report, a term she would reserve for carcinoma in situ, a pre-malignant condition, or microinvasive carcinoma.

Although there has recently been an increasing incidence in true invasive cancer, the great explosion in so-called positive smear results has been in dysplasia.

### Mind-bending

Tonight Channel 4 hopes to alert doctors and the public to the side effects of the drugs used in the treatment of patients suffering from schizophrenia and the control of gross behavioural problems.

These antipsychotic drugs, as distinct from Valium and other minor tranquillizers, include the phenothiazine group, of which Largactil is the best known, and the loacting injectables (moderate, clopixol, depixol).

Contrary to general belief the great majority of schizophrenics are not dangerous. In the comparatively rare instance when violence has occurred it is

usually in response to an imagined threat.

Most sufferers are shy, reclusive, self-absorbed, depressed and frightened by their own thoughts. The introduction in the 1950s of antipsychotic drugs was hailed as miraculous as they revolutionized the treatment of schizophrenia.

In many cases the drugs enabled the patient to return to a near normal life in the community. But there are side effects, some of which affect the patients' movements. Often a Parkinson-type condition occurs. One of the more distressing complications is tardive dyskinesia, in which the patient loses control of the muscles in the face and limbs.

Although severe cases are rare, some researchers suggest that up to 20 per cent of patients on long term major tranquillizers show minor signs.

### MYTHS

1. That the accumulation of fat producing dimpling under the skin of the thighs and legs in some women is due to a specific condition, cellulitis.

Doctors don't acknowledge this: fat collects in these sites for exactly the same reasons, that it collects elsewhere and no local remedies will help. Cellulitis in medical terminology is

infection of the loose subcutaneous tissue.

2. That local treatment can prevent stretch marks.

Nobody knows exactly why stretch marks occur in pregnancy. A similar appearance is found when young people of either sex rapidly put on weight. As it is also seen in some diseases of the endocrine system, it is thought that there may be a relationship to steroid production.

### Bitter Pill

One of the disadvantages of the contraceptive pill is the development of a cervicitis, in which the cervix becomes spongy

in appearance and tends to bleed. Up until now this has not been of any great significance, but in the event of AIDS spreading to the bisexual or heterosexual community it could provide an access for the HTLVIII virus which is present in semen.

It seems increasingly likely that this small virus will succeed where Lady Lothian, Mrs Whitehouse and Mrs Victoria Gillick failed, in producing a fundamental change in the sexual habits of this country just as is already happening in America. Not only will promiscuity become unfashionable, but there may also be a return to the barrier methods of contraception.

The results of a trial of one alternative to the pill, the sponge method of contraceptive, have recently been announced and are disappointing. Twenty-five pregnancies occurred in the 126 women who were prescribed the sponge.

### Dr Thomas Stuttford

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# THE TIMES DIARY

## Privileged leak

The Committee of Privileges, which met on Wednesday night to decide on the leaked Commons select committee draft report, have also had its findings leaked to me. By nine votes to five the members decided not to seek further evidence in the case and the matter, I am told, has been dropped. The Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, advised that he considered the 1837 rule forbidding disclosure of committee proceedings to be virtually "unenforceable" in this day and age. Successive committee members were outraged when I rang them yesterday to find out the result. "You shouldn't be asking me this," exclaimed John Morris QC, while Ian Mikardo told "You're not going to tempt a member of the privileges committee to breach privilege. You must possess your soul in patience." Tony Benn was equally tightlipped. Sir Michael refused to confirm or deny his alleged statement. Until reported to the House, he said, the committee's findings were confidential.

## Studied silence

City University journalism students should not bother applying for posts in the Number 10 press office. Chief press spokesman Bernard Ingham is fuming that a discussion he recently had with them at Downing Street has been leaked. Ingham denies that he expressed a wish to one day edit his old paper, the *Yorkshire Post*. "Someone put it to me and I laughed, that's all. It really is disgraceful that you cannot have a private conversation with someone. Quite frankly if they go on like this I have no intention of ever talking to them again...."

● Talk about a bankrupt music policy. Radio Two yesterday played without comment "Down by the Banks of the Ohio".

## Positively not

Lobby correspondents are not amused. Wednesday's white paper rejecting every one of a select committee's main recommendations on tightening rules governing civil servants came accompanied by a lobby note. "The Government's response should not be seen as being a negative one," it instructed journalists unambiguously. Fortunately no one was taken in by this "blatant attempt to mislead journalists" (unattributable).

BARRY FANTONI



'Doris reckons they'll knock 5p off your overdraft'

## For art's sake

A spitting mad Lord Gower rang me yesterday to get even with the director of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Professor Michael Jaffe, whom the Arts Minister damned as "very stupid, rude and ungrateful". In the Diary this week, Jaffe doubled Lord Gower's "old furniture" and "was never a great art dealer" before going into government. Jaffe was responding to a new government ruling, through which the museum lost the bequest of a £500,000 writing cabinet, which had been offered in lieu of £211,000 taxes. "Ridiculous," said Lord Gower, "my colleagues and myself have been working ourselves to the bone to save Nostell Priory's Chippendale collection for the nation". He has also helped give Keynes's collection of Blake and modern art, worth around £200,000, to the Fitzwilliam. "Michael Jaffe is a very stupid, rude and ungrateful man. I worked for Thomas Gibson, one of the finest art dealers in the world. I consider myself more distinguished in my field than Jaffe is in his." Over to you, Jaffe.

● The husbands of prisoners should get out their begging bowls. In an act of pure sexism, the GLC announced an £8,000 grant yesterday to a Prisoners' Wives Service.

## Good Bette

Harry Vincent, retired chairman of Bovis, amazed guests at the builders' centenary dinner in London on Wednesday by recounting his torrid affair with Bette Davis. Vincent, then a 24-year-old company trainee, met her while staying in a Rottingdean hotel near Brighton in 1936. When they got talking, he realized "the ash blond in slacks" who ate alone was Davis, in England for an acrimonious High Court battle with Warner Bros. "She was pretty miserable and having husband trouble," recalls Vincent. The rest, as they say, was hysteria. Extending his break from one week to two, the couple "got pretty entwined". The affair was rekindled two years later when he persuaded Bovis to send him to America and he visited Davis in Hollywood. "There was no future in it, of course, I had no money."

PHS

# Lawson's special reserve

by Tim Congdon

Mr Lawson has cooked the books once again. But whereas in previous Budgets he did so by making the public sector borrowing requirements seem lower than it really was, in this year's Budget he has made it seem higher. According to the official handouts, the prospective PSBR in 1985/86 is £7bn. In fact, it is £5bn.

The Chancellor's sleight of hand has been to raise the contingency reserve from £3bn to £5bn in order, according to Lawson, "to provide a more realistic basis on which to plan and control the level of public spending". If had not been for this £2bn addition to the contingency reserve the PSBR would have been £5bn. Of course, if there is good reason for the Chancellor to have enlarged the contingency reserve in this way the £7bn figure can be justified. But is there good reason? In principle, the contingency reserve exists to meet unforeseen claims on public expenditure. In 1984/85 it was set at £2.8bn and overwhelmed by a succession of misfortunes. The cost of the miner's strike was £2.5bn, local authority spending overran targets by more than £1.5bn and central government spending on social security was £500m higher than expected, partly because of the continuing rise in unemployment. After this awful experience it is perhaps unsurprising that Lawson should have wanted to expand the contingency reserve.

But much has already been done to prevent a repetition of the problems. Rate-capping has been accepted by even of the most recalcitrant high-spending local authorities, while the national insurance and tax changes in the Budget should slow down the rise in unemployment. More obviously, the miners are unlikely to be on strike for the next 12 months.

The Chancellor's true motive for increasing the contingency reserve was more probably concern about revenue than expenditure. It matters little that by convention the reserve is added to the "planning total" for public spending. The implications for the PSBR targeting would be no different if it were deducted from projected revenue.

In 1985/86 - and even more so in later years - there is a strong reason for anticipating a shortfall in revenue. This is the possibility that Opec may either fail to defend the current oil price or break up completely. If this were to happen the Exchequer would lose substantial amounts of North Sea revenue. The Government would then be forced to raise other taxes sharply - not a welcome prospect in the run-up to the next general election - or acquiesce in a deterioration in public sector finances, contrary to both the spirit and the letter of the medium-term financial strategy.

The accompanying table shows why Mr Lawson is right to have taken precautions. In every one of

the last four financial years oil revenues have proved to be higher than forecast at Budget time. If the Treasury's original estimates had proved correct, the PSBR would have climbed from £9.2bn in 1981/82 to £12.8bn in 1984/85, hardly an impressive record for a government which prides itself on the rigour of its fiscal control. Without the lucky bonus from the North Sea, the PSBR would have missed official targets by an even wider margin than actually occurred.

In the *Financial Statement and Budget Report* the Treasury has recognized the uncertain outlook for oil prices by forecasting a significant decline in North Sea revenues from a peak of £13.5 bn in 1985/86 to £8.5 bn in 1988/89. But this may not be adequate and the enlarged contingency reserve gives a further line of defence. Lawson has protected fiscal discipline against upsets on the Rotterdam spot market and the vagaries of Middle Eastern politics.

He could have achieved the same result in a quite different way, however. The contingency reserve

could have been held at £3 bn and the PSBR target reduced to £5 bn indicating that worries about the oil situation were his motive. Why did he not choose this approach? In substantive terms it would not have been much different from announcing a PSBR target of £7 bn and a contingency reserve of £5 bn.

The answer is that, in presentational terms, it would have been very different. The pre-Budget debate unfortunately had something of the character of an Eatanswill election. There were numerous demands for a relaxation of fiscal policy, particularly in the newspapers. One week Mr Pott of the *Gazette* declared in favour of £3 bn tax cuts and the next Mr Slurk of the *Independent* advocated £2 bn more public works. Not content with proposing various ways in which people might bribe themselves with their own money, several commentators invented ridiculously entertaining labels for the few spoilsports who suggested that bribing oneself is a rather silly activity. The spoilsports discovered, on reading their morning papers at breakfast, that they had become "fiscal hairshirts", "economic puritans", "debusts" and other wicked things.

This is all great fun, although not perhaps very edifying. But Mr Lawson has shown no particular wish to become involved. He also knows that, given the increasingly corrupt state of so-called "informed opinion", it would be political suicide for him to be categorized with the hairshirt brigade. He has therefore given the impression that the PSBR target for 1985/86 has not been changed, when it has actually been reduced. It is a clever ruse which so far seems to have worked.

The author is economics partner at stockbrokers L. Messel & Co.

## How the Treasury underestimated oil revenues

	North Sea revenues			PSBR excluding above-estimated North Sea revenues
	Budget-time forecast	Actual outcome	Excess over estimate	
1981/82	5.9	6.5	0.6	9.2
1982/83	6.2	7.8	1.6	10.5
1983/84	7.8	9.5	1.7	10.8
1984/85	10.2	12.0	1.8	12.3

all figures in £bn  
Source: *Financial Statement and Budget Reports* for relevant years

## Bernard Levin: the way we live now

# A different people, the same colour of money

their bit by buying such goods at one price and selling them at another, higher price. And the solution to the problem of this illegal trafficking will never be found in the promulgation of decrees abolishing it or penalising punishing it. The only way to stop it is to increase the official and legal supply to the point at which the unofficial and illegal suppliers can no longer make a profit.

In countries such as Britain, where there are thousands upon thousands of shops selling blue-jeans and pop-music records, no black market in these goods exists, any more than it does for foreign currency. In the Soviet Union and China, where the jeans and the records are in short supply, and the foreign currency is the only kind that will buy anything, the black market flourishes. (It is significant that the only kind of black market that exists in free countries is the one which trades in goods the supply of which cannot be lawfully increased by any means, such as tickets for over-subscribed sporting or artistic events.)

It has often been pointed out, not least by me, that the countries which deny their subjects political freedom tend to be the countries which cannot supply their peoples' material wants either. What is less often noticed is that that is not a coincidence. In a sense, economic freedom is the most basic of political freedoms: only where the people are free to buy and sell to tend and borrow, above all to own, will any substantial number of them enjoy either the liberty to speak their minds or the comfort of a reasonable standard of living.

Apologists for totalitarian regimes always evade this truth: try asking Professor Victor Allen why the people of the Soviet Union are much poorer than those of Western Europe. First, he will claim that they are not free, second, /for he will point out that Soviet democracy is of a far finer and purer kind than ours and then he will adduce any number of reasons why they are, from the wickedness of the tsars to the unfortunate string of bad harvests caused solely by unreasonable weather: what he will never admit is that there is any connection between communist tyranny and communist poverty, and he still

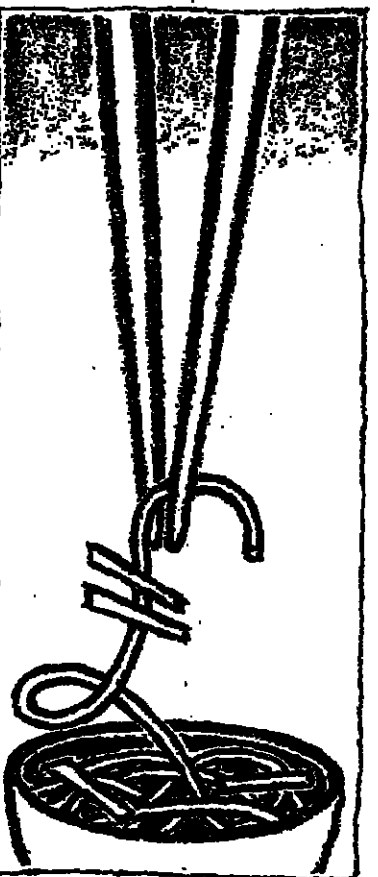
wouldn't admit the connection even if he were to admit the tyranny.

The Chinese rulers' campaign against illicit dealings follows hard upon their recent introduction of some suspiciously capitalist measures of economic reform; perhaps the threats are a way of indicating that the reforms must not put the wrong ideas into the citizen's heads. But unless the implications of the illicit dealings are understood, the reforms will fail in their purpose.

Amid the announcement of the measures to be taken against profiteering and the like, the Chinese leaders drew attention to the fact that government and other official institutions were also engaged in the illicit trafficking. Again, that will surprise no one who has discovered that human beings are not we heard a great deal.

Andropov-time, about the new

Paula Youngs



broom's intention to sweep the Soviet Union clean of corruption, and we shall soon hear a great deal more about how Mr Gorbachev is going to carry even further the cleansing of Soviet public life. But not even Mr Gorbachev, let alone Professor Allen, is going to explain how the corruption got into Soviet life in the first place, and neither of them is going to admit that the worst and most blatant corruption is the kind that the Soviet Union's leaders themselves live by, the luxury in which they wallow while their subjects queue for hours in case there might be something worth buying at the front of the queue. (This way of life has been enthusiastically adopted by the rulers of the Soviet Union's imperial possessions: the thieving and racketeering of Ceausescu, and his wife and their families is so gigantic, shameless and uncontrollable that there is, quite literally, nothing in the world to match it.)

Tingummy expelles firea, ti-tum-tum issue recurrent. However many more numerous, yellow and cyan-blue-green than the rest of us the Chinese are, these are but the wrappings and the suits beneath them there beat a billion hearts to a rhythm much older than communism. Whatever form of government China has, there will never be any lack of Chinese minibi to turn an honest ren minbi (it used to be a tael when Kai Lung and I were young), and a sufficient proportion of those will be quite willing to turn a dishonest ren minbi if the other kind is too difficult to turn.

But why should that be matter for surprise? Our own home-grown Maoists used to claim that Chinese Communism had created an entirely new kind of human being, just as their predecessors, the Soviet fellow travellers, would claim that New Soviet Man had been born; the Chinese and the Russian varieties had in common the quality of not minding poverty, indeed of embracing it with cries of joy.

Some believed that; some still do. You will not however expect me to be among them. I believe that human beings the world over want to improve their lot, and that goes for black ones as well as white, yellow as well as brown. The ingenuity and assiduity with which some of them will pursue that desire has, throughout history, defeated every attempt, however comprehensive and brutal, to choke it off, and the latest attempt will fare no better than the earlier ones. No doubt Deng's political nearest and dearest will tell him that which he wishes to hear, viz that speculation, profiteering, black markets and the rest have been bitterly expunged at a stroke of his all-wise pen. But that is another, and even older, story.

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# Picketing Reagan into action

Visitors to Washington looking for a quick fix on American foreign policy can do worse than drive up Massachusetts Avenue, the breezy and expensive boulevard sometimes known as Embassy Row. As you coast up the hill your taxi driver will relentlessly point out the sights to you - the gloomy grandeur of the Turkish embassy, the precarious modernity of Brazil, the neo-Georgian pomposity of the British. It is when you hear a mutter from the driving seat - "See that? Those layabouts oughta be strung up. Know what I mean?" - that you realize you are on to something, namely the current embassy demonstration.

The main centre of this virtually perennial activity at present is the South African embassy. This is a smug-looking edifice in rather the same style as the British, although on a smaller scale, before which a circular line of 30 or 40 people - mainly black and middle aged, but with a sprinkling of white people - process listlessly under the eyes of a few languid-looking cops. They carry homemade anti-apartheid slogans and occasionally raise a perfunctory shout.

At about tea-time the television cameras suddenly appear. Something is obviously going to happen. A figure whose face seems vaguely familiar detaches itself, pushes past the cops and advances towards the front door of the embassy, where he is quickly pulled back and "arrested". The cameras whirr and then depart. The procession continues.

Later your television newscaster will tell you in a 15-second flash that news has been made on Massachusetts Avenue. A good day's work all round.

This is the kind of exhibition which provokes cynicism in all but the most hardened observers. The civil rights movement in the US remains a powerful apparatus but it is stymied for the present - not because (God knows) there is no longer any discrimination in America but because the great American public is not in a mood for self-reproach and because Reagan's landslide victory has deprived it of the moral basis for a domestic crusade.

People are therefore turning, in their frustration, to an external issue which has the advantage of putting the Reagan administration on the spot without raising a great deal of unpopular questions about the state of American society.

Meanwhile the Democrats in Congress see a similar angle - with the additional twist that they are anxious to prevent the Republicans from capturing the black vote of the southern states in 1986. The Republicans don't see why the Democrats should have the issue to themselves, and since it costs most of them absolutely nothing to take a high moral tone about South Africa they are piling onto the bandwagon too. The media are short of moral issues at present and, like the politicians, are relieved to find something which prevents them from looking less sycophantic about the administration.

And yet, as always in America, it is a mistake to allow cynicism to blind one to reality. To identify

these manoeuvres as political is not the same as denying their effectiveness. They have, in fact, reacted as intended with the latent moralising of American attitudes to international questions. This has helped to produce a climate in which anti-apartheid legislation of some kind is very likely to get through Congress this year.

There is going to be a good deal of fresh pressure on institutional investors to get out of stocks with a South African connection and on American firms to get out of South Africa altogether, and it will be increasingly hard for the administration to carry on its declared policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa.

For the moment, no great practical results are likely to flow from the first two of these changes. Nor, perhaps, are they even intended to. In this kind of "gesture of politics", the consequences, particularly in South Africa, are scarcely thought to matter. Any bill which gets past the Senate and the presidential veto is still bound to be relatively weak: if shares and investments are sold, there will still be plenty of buyers.

What is more significant is the effect on American policy. The Reagan administration's original decision was to reverse Carter's moral quarantine on South Africa. Apartheid was to be regarded henceforth as an unpleasant aberration rather than as an integral aspect of the South African state, and the best hope of causing it to diminish was supposed to be to recognize South Africa as an important economic partner of the western camp.

An additional calculation was that the US could, by skilful diplomacy, avail itself of South African military strength to get rid of the Cubans from Angola and at the same time improve its own standing in the Third World by persuading the South Africans to withdraw from Namibia.

The question at present is whether anything whatever is left of this policy's credibility. Apartheid still stands more or less unscathed. As for a Namibian settlement and a Cuban withdrawal, these look increasingly improbable in the lifetime of the Reagan administration.

The truth is that the American government in its relations with South Africa has come to the place that others, including ourselves, have reached before. It has tried almost every argument, every inducement and every threat without success. Within the next few months there is not much left but to throw up its hands and forget the whole subject or to go in for tough pressure.

After all that has been said in the past five years about South Africa as a bulwark against communism and a source of protection to the sealanes, Reagan is unlikely to get really rough with the Pretoria regime. The present agitation is designed to prevent him doing nothing. He will probably succeed in doing nothing all the same. It is beginning to look, however, as if the events outside the South African embassy and elsewhere will push his successor towards serious economic sanctions, the last remaining option.

## moreover... Miles Kington

# No thanks, poet: now I know it

Four years ago I was stopped in the street in Greenwich Village and asked a most peculiar question: "Do you like poetry?"

He was a tall man in a huge hat, like a softer version of Lee Marvin. He smiled at me as if the future of the world depended on my answer: I said yes.

"Then I think you will enjoy this book of poems I have published."

Curse. He had got me there. I handed over the dollars and took it away to read. It was neither very bad, nor very good, and I forgot all about it until two years later, in the streets of the Edinburgh Festival, he stopped me again. "Do you like poetry?"

"Yes, but not enough to buy your book again."

He smiled and wandered off, and that was that until I met the Wandering Poet again last year in Notting Hill and he asked me the same question once more.

"Look, I keep telling you I do! Don't you ever listen? And I have your book."

"Ah, but I have written a new book."

Curses. He had me again. He may not be a great poet but he's a fine salesman. I was reminded of him by reading that Michael Horowitz is running another poetry olympics at the Young Vic tomorrow: now, there's another fine salesman. I first met Mike 25 years ago, and even then he was stomping round the country, declaiming verse, hassling people for money and support, issuing a new magazine about once in five years, trying to get jazz and poetry more than four times a year. Why do most of us like poetry and not read it?

I think probably it's because most of us are caught up in the academic tradition of what poetry is all about, as something to be pored over.

studied and put in a show case. When the Liverpool poets - Roger McGough, Brian Patten, etc - were first published, many a critic dismissed them because their stuff might work as right as an excited poetry reading, but, oh dear, it certainly didn't survive critical scrutiny on the page. When these critics didn't realize that a new kind of verse was coming along, instant, foot-tapping verse, almost throwaway verse, poetry that didn't have one eye cocked on posterity.

It had come into existence because academic verse had left a vacuum for it. Intellectually respectable poets had developed an inaccessible diction which made it harder and harder for the reader to get inside, or even want to. We were told that Ezra Pound was a good poet: we were urged to study the opaque verse of Dylan Thomas, whereas I now think there is more poetry in *Under Milk Wood* than all the rest of his poetry put together.

I now realize, looking back, that the poet I have most enjoyed have been non-academic. In three years doing French literature at Oxford I was never once asked to look at the modern poets I respond to most: Jacques Prevert, Georges Brassens, Raymond Queneau. I went through my impressionable teens reveling in the beat poets, Corso, Ginsberg, Kerouac, even Ferlinghetti. If I reread them now, I'm sure they would not have stood the test of time, but I'm sure now that it doesn't matter. Poetry can be throwaway, just as jazz can be played and vanish into the air for ever. If this makes me hopelessly middlebrow, I really don't care.

I rather wish now that I could be at the Young Vic tomorrow to hear Mike Horowitz. Attilla the Stockbroker, John Cooper Clarke, The Ranting Kiwi, R. D. Laing and the rest of them, prepared to get up and perform the audience or fall flat on their faces. Unfortunately, I have to be in the depths of Yorkshire. If a tall man with a huge hat emerges from the Yorkshire mist and asks me if I like poetry, I shall tell him: "Look, I keep telling you I do, but I sure as hell like the idea of it."

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# Integration - but not behind closed doors

From Norman Fowler's lips at his post-Budget press conference on Tuesday dropped the word "integration". Half an hour before, in the House of Commons, the Chancellor had used it too. Integration between the tax and social security systems is to be one of the areas that the green paper on personal income tax, announced by Lawson for the autumn, will examine.

That will be warm, welcome and long-overdue news for a host of academics, think-tanks, pressure groups and lobbyists from both right and left. For the past year, ever since Fowler announced his piecemeal reviews of social security, many of them have been hammering away at the Government arguing that integration is sorely needed if the tax and social security systems are ever to make sense. There have been precious few signs that anyone in government has been listening. Now it appears that Fowler and Lawson have in fact been talking to each other.

Three things point to that. First the tax green paper announcement. Second the budget cuts in national insurance contributions for the low paid - a small step towards easing the poverty trap. Third, strong hints that Fowler's social security review, when published in early May, will be a reform that will take several years

to implement in full, rather than a one-off package. The Government may, after all, be stepping gingerly towards a strategy for tax and social security, rather than a series of fragmented, tactical reforms.

What will integration mean? The short answer is we do not know. Not Tony Barber's ill-fated tax-credit scheme which vanished with Heath's defeat in the 1974 general election. Not anything as magnificently revolutionary as the Institute of Fiscal Studies' recent "big-bang" solution to the problem.

But it will mean some step towards easing the poverty trap whereby a rise in income leads to benefits withdrawn and tax imposed in a combination that can swallow up 70p or 80p or even 100p of each extra £1 earned; some effort to use the tax and social security system in combination to create a low-pay but working economy for the unskilled and unemployed; and something that redresses the present tax advantage for working couples which will encourage women to stay at home with the children.

Not all these, by any means, are ideas that would appeal to the left as well as the right. And on one level, integration may mean little more than seeing whether the PAYE system could not be used to pay benefits such as child benefit to

those in work, rather than using DHSS order books and post offices. The problem, as so often with this Government, is that it has been doing its thinking (in this case on integration) in private, while inviting evidence on something else in public.

Fowler's reviews, by chopping the social security system into five separate areas, scarcely encouraged those who saw the need for more radical reform. The concentration on social security hardly invited the critiques asking why the married man's allowance, costing over £3 billion a year, is seen as an entitlement whether or not the couple have children while child benefit, costing £4 billion, is seen as a state handout because it is paid as a benefit rather than a tax allowance.

Arguments about whether help with housing should be seen as a gift to the poor when it is called housing benefit and costs £4 billion, but as a right for the better-off when it is called mortgage tax relief and costs £3 billion, were provided with no focus.

Mortgage tax relief may well remain a sacred cow. But Lawson, through the tax green paper's examination of the married man's allowance, is now at least encouraging debate in these areas - whether that is the intention or not.

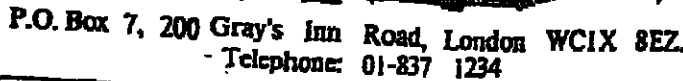
The Government has a clear opportunity for some integration as PAYE operational strategy computerized social security in a way that could allow more integration in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The problem for the critics who would see integration as a chance to be more generous lower down the income scale is that they may well find the Government has pre-empted them by thinking in private. On Tuesday, Fowler said the reasoning behind the Government's approach was to first decide on the objectives and structures of social security, and then look at what could be done to the taxation system to help meet those objectives. The key objective on social security, simplification aside, looks to be greater selectivity - restricting benefits to those who really "need" them.

But Nigel and Norman this week have raised the corner of a curtain that will have to be pulled back if the issue of integrating tax and social security is to be tackled seriously. They have raised expectations: it will be a pity if they then disappoint them.

Nicholas Timmins  
Social services correspondent





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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Bank's new gilt market will not wait for SE

It emerged yesterday that the Bank of England will go ahead with its restructuring of the gilt-edged market before vital changes in the membership rules of the Stock Exchange are approved by its own members.

The Bank has said that Stock Exchange membership will be a necessary qualification for applicants who wish to become primary dealers (market makers) in the new gilt market. But many of the 30 applications expected are likely to be from those who are not allowed Stock Exchange membership under present rules.

This week, the Stock Exchange formally unveiled its proposed changes to let in outsiders, but approval by the 4,600 members, likely to be a fairly quiescent affair, does not take place until June 4.

Assuming the Bank can get its final version of the new rules back from the printers just after Easter, it will invite applications during the ensuing eight weeks and close them about a fortnight before the crucial Stock Exchange vote.

No doubt the Bank has taken the view that it must press ahead with deciding who will become a primary dealer to allow the successful applicant time to gear up for Big Bang - when negotiated commissions are introduced in the autumn next year.

However, it may serve to aggravate an already tetchy Stock Exchange membership, which in some quarters feels the fundamental reform of its markets is being steamrollered through, irrespective of members' wishes and feelings.

Small Stock Exchange firms and some associate members (those who own shares but are not partners shouldering unlimited liability) are not particularly impressed with the cash formula for valuing their Stock Exchange shareholding. Of the total membership, associates represent about 48 per cent, more than sufficient to overturn the council's proposals on constitutional issues which require a 75 per cent majority.

The associates may well feel aggrieved watching some Stock Exchange members, notably partners in firms which have done deals, walking off with £1 million or more, while they - with precisely the same stake in the Exchange, although not in the firm - have shares probably worth £10,000 at best.

The Stock Exchange had a difficult job balancing the charge for new entrants with the share value to existing members, but clearly for those members without a lucrative link with a foreign or British bank, the figures look pale. Some have suggested that a ballot on the issue, rather than a show of hands, would mean the proposals would be voted out.

For new entrants, the maximum £700,000 over five years set by the council, is unlikely to present demanding financial strains. Typical was Chase Manhattan Bank which have formed links with both Laurie Millbank and Simon & Coates. "The entry fee is insignificant compared with the amounts of money Chase is prepared to commit to become big players in both gilts and equities," was its reaction. But even Chase will not wish to become unwilling shuttlecocks in the game being played between the Bank and the Stock Market.

## The pound misses a later snapshot

The pound rose a staggering 2.4 points on the Bank of England's trade-weighted index yesterday - a 3.25 per cent rise in a single day.

But the increasing volatility of the markets makes a snapshot concentration on the London close increasingly misleading. The Treasury argues that the New York markets do not provide sufficient cross-rates for all the components in the sterling index to enable later calculations, but this lack is making the index a somewhat discontinuous measure of

sterling's strength at these turbulent times.

We have to rely on a comparison of the two most important sterling rates, against the mark and the dollar, for a quick after-hours check on the extent to which the pound's movements are merely a reflection of dollar weakness or demonstrate the pound's own widespread recovery.

The pound-DM rate provides a particularly interesting story: yesterday afternoon the pound was standing above DM3.80, over the top of the DM3.70 - DM3.80, range in which the Government appeared to be shadowing the European Monetary System last summer.

This was a full 30 pfennigs above the pound's low point earlier in the year; a development which is not entirely welcome. For while a rise against the dollar was some useful feedback in the shape of lower import prices of raw materials, a rise against the mark hurts competitiveness against our most powerful European neighbour. It gives rise to at least the thought that full membership of the European Monetary System might have offered greater comfort, enabling a recovery against the dollar to have been managed by the Europeans together, without disturbing their internal rates.

Against the dollar, the pound's recovery so far has not been nearly enough to take it back to last summer's levels. And the Bank of England continues to display caution, retaining its support for interest rates. It seems determined to scotch the notion that the British Government is dedicated to driving interest rates down as far as possible - a belief that has done so much harm to sterling over the past year.

Of course, the authorities justify this caution in terms of the domestic financial aggregates, but the detailed money figures for February contained no nasty surprises. Admittedly, sterling M3 looks high in relation to the Chancellor's new targets - but Mo, to which he is keen to switch some of the attention, poses no threat to either the new or the old target.

## Higher price on top 5% earners

The Stock Exchange white paper setting out the costs of buying into a member firm comes on top of a Budget which made stockbrokers a much more expensive commodity.

The abolition of the National Insurance upper earnings limit for employers - it remains at £265 a week for employees - will hit only a small proportion of companies employing highly expensive labour. About 50 per cent of the employed workforce in Britain falls in the neutral zone; 10 per cent earns under £80 a week and will thus be a saving to employers; and only 5 per cent earns upwards of £300 a week.

The 5 per cent, however, is heavily concentrated in the City among stockbrokers, merchant banks, accountants, money brokers insurance brokers and the like. Advertising and public relations agencies will also be net losers.

Good Relations, now of the few public relations companies with a full listing, estimated the Budget changes will cost £90,000 in a full year. USM-quoted Valin Pollen expects to pay an extra £300,000 to £400,000 a year.

Large employers of labour appear to be paying a high price, but in the context of overall group profits the extra charge should be easily absorbed.

Although it may make employers of high earners that much more choosy when recruiting, the abolition of the upper earnings limit is unlikely to lead to stagnation in the top jobs market. Some of the expensive employees are after all supposed to earn their salaries several times over in a day for their firms. But employers may in future be more careful to ensure they recruit only those candidates capable of such a feat.

## Recession fear in US as growth rate dips to 2.1%

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US economy grew at a surprisingly weak rate of 2.1 per cent in the first quarter of the year while inflation rose sharply in a combination of events which sent the dollar plummeting on world markets.

Department of Commerce officials, releasing yesterday the government's "flash" estimate of first quarter growth, said the gross national product grew at its weakest rate since last summer when it slowed to 1.6 per cent, raising fears of another recession.

The estimate, which is often erratic, caught analysts by surprise. It had been widely anticipated that the economy would slow from its strong pace of 4.3 per cent in the final quarter of 1984 but only to a

rate of about 3.5 per cent for all of 1984, the economy grew at a brisk 6.8 per cent.

The sharp rise in the inflation rate was also surprising. It grew at an estimated rate of 5.4 per cent in the first quarter, up from 2.8 per cent in the final quarter of 1984 and 3.8 per cent for all of 1984.

The officials blamed the inflation rise on recent pay increases for federal workers but traders on Wall Street said it was still unclear why prices accelerated so sharply. Many expressed the fear that the US Federal Reserve Board would now be forced to tighten monetary policy at a difficult time following the closure of 71 state-insured savings and loan associations in Ohio.

Concern is growing over the underlying shift in the economy which is strong in consumer spending, largely because of the high dollar, but increasingly weak in the manufacturing sector as cheaper imports displace domestic goods.

Commerce Department officials again cited the mounting trade deficit as a primary factor in the weak first quarter growth.

They estimated that investment in plant and inventories would be sluggish in the first quarter.

Consumer spending, which led the economy out of recession, has remained strong. According to the "flash" estimate, the US economy grew in the first quarter more than 7 per cent but, after accounting for

the effects of the 5.4 per cent inflation rate, actual adjusted growth was put at only 2.1 per cent.

The forecast had an immediate effect on markets but officials cautioned against reading too much into the figures.

Meanwhile, Mr James Baker, the new Treasury Secretary, said that as a result of the administration's mounting concern over the dollar he planned to launch a new study of world currency markets with the aim of promoting greater stability.

Mr Baker told the *New York Times* that the administration was not interested in tightening controls on markets but rather in devising ways to achieve less erratic trading patterns.

## Britoil 'wants state to sell holding'

By Christopher Dunn and David Young

Britoil is keen to see the Government dispose of all or part of its 49 per cent stake, possibly through an international vendor placing, market sources said last night.

Sir Philip Shelbourne, chairman of Britoil, refused to comment on the possible share sale, but confirmed that continued uncertainty had depressed the share price.

Last night, the shares closed at 215p down 5p, despite announcing better-than-expected earnings for 1984 of £169.4 million, up £26 million on 1983.

Britoil, which was privatized in November 1982, at 215p, had a disastrous start as a privately-owned company with about 70 per cent of the tender offer left with the underwriters. The shares have underperformed the market subsequently.

A Treasury spokesman confirmed last night that the Government had no formal commitment not to reduce its stake. At the time of flotation, the Government committed itself to maintaining its stake during the life of that Parliament, which was dissolved in the spring of 1983 for the General Election.

Disposal of the Government's Britoil stake would at last night's share price bring in over £500 million gross for the Exchequer.

A vendor placing offers the

possibility of a speedy share sale, while international demand for Britoil equity is understood to be good, at least among underwriters, after the oil group's successful \$125 million Eurobond issue in October 1983.

Sir Philip commented: "Whatever happens, we must get it right this time. But management can't place the shares, as has been made clear."

Britoil's profits were helped by the rising dollar while turnover was hindered for the same reason.

The company - which was formed from the production and exploration assets of the soon-to-be-abolished British National Oil Corporation which remained as a pure oil trading operation - now has an annual output of 61 million barrels of oil and 69 million cubic feet of natural gas.

However, despite Britoil's financial success and its continued expansion the US - it announced a \$73 million (£63.6 million) US acquisition earlier this week - the real return in profits will come in 1987 when its Clyde field comes on stream and new North Sea gas fields start producing.

Mr Ian Clark, joint managing director, said yesterday that the demise of BNOC would make little difference to Britoil as it had its own trading department.

Tempus, page 23

## Jaguar's 83% surge disappoints market

By Clifford Feltham

Jaguar yesterday ended its first lap on the private circuit, finishing the trading year with pretax profits 83 per cent ahead at £91.5 million.

Helped by the fall in the value of the pound against the dollar, Jaguar sold 55 per cent of all its cars into the United States.

Mr John Egan, chairman and chief executive, brought in to restore the fortunes of the Coventry group in 1980, said that prospects for the present year were encouraging with demand continuing to exceed supply.

But on the stock market there was some disappointment that profits had not been higher - some brokers had been looking towards £95 million - and the shares fell 16p to 314p. But investors who bought the shares at 165p when Jaguar was privatized last August have still done well.

The reason for the lower than expected outcome lies in the decision of Jaguar to engage in currency hedging, which has meant that the full benefits of sterling's fall have not worked their way through.

Mr Egan would not disclose details of the transactions but said Jaguar had sold forward a "substantial proportion" of its dollar receipts for 1984 and 1985. He said: "We are rolling forward currency contracts on a 12-month basis. When we see a

good rate to sell forward we will."

Turnover last year rose from £472.6 million to just over £634 million. More than half the 32,956 cars sold - finished in showrooms in the United States, where sales increased by 19 per cent. But there were sharp improvements in other markets such as Canada (up 87 per cent), West Germany (71 per cent), and Australia (55 per cent).

There were productivity gains of 6 per cent in the year, achieved despite a week-long stoppage which cost 1,000 cars.

In the present year Jaguar is looking for growth rates of between 10 and 15 per cent.

Jaguar's long-awaited model, the XJ40, will remain on the launch pad until next year for further refinements.

After last year's capital spending of £38 million the group has earmarked between £40 million and £50 million in the present year and between £50 million and £60 million next year.

The group is paying a dividend of 4.75p a share. After the results brokers were penciling in forecasts ranging from £115 million to £125 million for the present year.

Tempus, page 23

IN BRIEF  
Sale near at Yarrow

The Government is expected to announce next week the new owner of the Yarrow warship yard on Clydeside. Only two serious bids have been made for the yard, with GEC being strongly tipped to have carried the day against Trafalgar House.

Lazard, the merchant bank handling the sale, said yesterday that it has submitted the name of its preferred bidder to British Shipbuilders, and this has now been passed on to the Government for approval.

## Investment up

Capital expenditure last year was the highest on record, according to revised figures yesterday. Investment in real terms increased 13 per cent in the manufacturing, construction, distribution and financial sectors.



Mr Brian Williamson above, was elected chairman of the London International Financial Futures Exchange yesterday. Mr Williamson, who is also a director of Gerrard & National, succeeds Mr John Barkshire.

## Bowater rise

Bowater Industries, the packaging to merchandising and services group, has increased pretax profits for 1984 from £27.6 million to £35.7 million on a like-for-like basis. Yesterday's preliminary results, the first since the North American newspaper activities were demerged last year, revealed that turnover had risen from £1,078.8 million to £1,266.4 million. A final dividend of 5p makes 8.5p for the year against 7.75p last time.

Tempus, page 23

## Rockware up

Rockware Group, the glass and plastic bottling company, has reported a turnover of £124 million (£131 million) for 1984. Pretax profit was £2.7 million (loss £12.8 million). No dividend (same) is being paid.

Tempus, page 23

## BT expects to top £1.45bn

By Jonathan Davis

British Telecom, the Government's largest and most recent privatization candidate, is projecting to beat the £1.350 million profits forecast made at the time of its flotation by between £100 million and £150 million.

The corporation is looking to report profits for 1984-5 of between £1.450 million and £1.500 million. Yesterday it announced pretax profits for the first nine months of the year of £1,070 million, against a comparable figure of £717 million in 1983-4.

BT's financial year ends this month, and Sir George Jefferson, the chairman, said yesterday: "Business has continued to be satisfactory, during the fourth quarter, and the profit for the quarter should continue the favourable trend of the first nine months results."

The corporation has been surprised to find how few of the 2.25 million shareholders who bought shares in last November's flotation have since sold. BT's shares closed yesterday at 134½p, 84½p above the comparable 50p partly-paid price at which the shares were sold by the Government.

Professional market surveys ordered by BT indicate that somewhere between 1.3 million and 1.8 million shareholders have hung on to their shares.

Mr Douglas Perryman, the board member responsible for finance, said that BT looked certain to achieve its target of reducing staff numbers by 15,000 in the three-year period to the end of this month.

## MARKET SUMMARY

## STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	993.1(-8.8)
FT-A All Share	104.1(+0.1)
FT Govt Securities	80.83(+0.16)
FT-SE 100	1300.7(-6.5)
Bargains	27.320
Daxstream USM	112.14(-0.02)
New York	
Dow Jones	1271.64(+6.40)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	closed(-)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1347.73(+35.17)
Amsterdam	206.5(+1.0)
Sydney: AO	802.0(-0.8)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1229.3(+11.8)
Brussels	
General	308.61(+3.50)
Paris: CAC	206.1(+0.6)
Zurich	
SKA General	345.20(-0.20)

## GOLD

London fixing	am \$312.50pm-\$318.50
close	\$320.50-\$321.50 (\$289.25-270.25)
New York	
Comex	\$318.90

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Newman Inds	28 +5
J. Billm	103 +17
Shaw Carparts	44 +7
Rockware Grp	55 +6
UKO Int	126 +11
Amv Petroleum	58 +5
Waring & Gillow	153 +13
Adam Leisure Grp	12 +1
Burnett & Hallamsh	85 +5
Carparts Int	47 +3
Phidom	42 +3
Blue Arrow	166 +11
Park Place Inv	155 +10
Jones & Shipman	79 +5
AB Elect Prod	445 +28
Stewart Nelm	16 +1
Celtic Haven	41 +2½

FALLS:	
Botton Textile	17 -3
Bronx Eng	16 -2½
MJI Corp	15 -2
VW Thermax	61 -7
Mumton Bros	19 -2
Feedack Ag	29 -3
Bio-Isolates	30 -3
S. R. Gent	128 -10

## CURRENCIES

London:	
£: \$1.1870 (+0.0895)	
£: DM 3.8102 (+0.0643)	
£: Sfr 3.2257 (+0.0587)	
£: Yen 11.6445 (+0.1825)	
£: Yen 301.26 (+6.71)	
£: Index: 75.4 (+2.4)	
New York:	
£: \$1.1835	
£: DM 3.2170	
\$ Index: 149.0(2.3)	
ECU £0.593548	
SDR £0.844394	

## INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 13½%	
3-month interbank 13½%-13¾%	
3-month eligible bills 12½%-12¾%	
buying rate	
US:	
Prime Rate 10.5%	
Federal Funds 8½%	
9-month Treasury Bills 8.45/8.41%	
Long bond yield	
95½%-95¾%	

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Joe Cummings



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Today, that process is by no means complete.  
The pound may be low, but under-investment is  
preventing many sections of British industry from  
cashing in.

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changes to the rates of capital allowances and corporation  
tax, which were fixed by the 1984 Finance Act.

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## Church

(Manufacturers and retailers of quality shoes)

**66** A record year with profits up by 68% — Bonus issue proposed **99**

reports Ian B Church, Chairman

- Pre-tax profits rose 68% to £4.72 million on turnover up 17% at £51.8 million. Earnings per share rose from 33.9p per share to 62.1p. A final dividend of 12p per share will make 15p for the year — an increase of 36%.
- A one for one Bonus Issue is proposed.
- Another record year for the UK manufacturing companies and our overseas operations in the United States, Canada, Belgium and France all achieved excellent results.
- A strong recovery in UK retail profits — £1.2 million against £0.2 million last year.
- Business in 1985 has started well with exports continuing to be very strong.

Comparative results	1984	1983
Sales	£1.85	£4.41
Trading profit	5.81	3.48
Profit before tax	4.72	2.80
Earnings per share	62.1p	33.9p
Dividend per share	15.0p	11.0p

Report and accounts will be issued to shareholders on 17th April 1985.  
Church & Co. PLC,  
St. James, Northampton NN5 5JB.

## CU and Rowntree Mackintosh move ahead on bid talk

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Plenty of hopeful stories were floating to the top of the stock market yesterday as new-time buying for the next Account got underway.

There were sharp run-ups in the share prices of two old market bid faithfuls, Commercial Union and Rowntree Mackintosh. Insurance group CU saw its price sail happily through the 200p level, up to 208p at one point, and Rowntree's price pushed into new ground and reached a trading peak of 418p.

CU is now reckoned to be a bid target for BTR, the industrial holding group which already has Cornhill Insurance and is thought to be looking to expand in that area. When BTR bought Cornhill in its acquisition of the Thomas Tilling group at the end of 1983, the City expected Cornhill to be offloaded, but as that has not happened, market men are hopeful BTR will build up its insurance business.

Guardian Royal Exchange is also thought to be interested in CU, though the likelihood of any one taking on CU and its problems is poor. Just three weeks ago CU reported a £72.8 million loss for 1984, and has little chance of returning to profit in the present year.

Though insurance business is on an upswing in America currently, it will take many months for improved premium rates to show through. And, if freakish weather conditions persist, the heavy claims bill will be hard to reduce.

CU would cost a prodigious in the region of £850 million at the

present price — a hefty price tag for such a difficult business.

Market men began to see the uncertainties for a takeover at CU, and by the close the price had drifted back to 204p, up just 5p on the day.

It was a similar tale at Rowntree, the foods and confectionery group which has been

The Whitbread brewing group is expected to intervene in the battle for control of Matthew Brown, the Lancashire brewery. It already has more than 5 per cent of Matthew Brown's shares and it has been suggested that it is trying to add to its holding. Brown is bitterly resisting an £87 million offer from Scottish and Newcastle Breweries and the market feels that Whitbread, which came to the aid of Davenports Brewery, of Birmingham in its hour of need, will perform a similar White Knight act for the Lancashire group. Matthew Brown shares, at one time yesterday 5p higher at 418p, are comfortably above the S and N offer.

plagued by bid talk for almost a year. A certain amount of buying has come from Switzerland, leading market men to expect a bid from that direction. But there has been no sign of action.

Yesterday the City was moved by news that Suchard, the Swiss chocolate maker had had a rights issue. Suchard raised only £30 million, small help in biting off a chunk like Rowntree. A buyer could be expected to pay around £760 million for Rowntree.

But market men were full of ideas and another suggestion is that Rowntree is on the shopping list of Imperial Group. Imperial is trying to sell off Howard Johnson, the American motels and restaurant chain, and is expected then to invest its cash elsewhere.

## Traded option highlights

Traded options business stayed buoyant yesterday, and a total of 10,241 contracts were dealt in. Commercial Union provided a chunk of the action, with 2,537 contracts traded, of which 1,852 were calls.

British Telecom also came back into the limelight as its results came through: 1,761 BT options changed hands.

The gilt contract continued to receive plenty of attention, and 640 options were traded. That is a high volume, given that each gilt contract represents £50,000 worth of underlying stock. Jaguar was another market star: 1,261 contracts were traded.

Prices of options were generally stable, although the disappointing figures from Jaguar led to some selling of June and September calls.

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### 21% Increase in Profits

	1983	1984
Sales	£72,319,000	£90,837,000
Pre-tax profits	£7,012,000	£8,520,000
Earnings per share	10.01p	11.53p
Dividends per share	3.35p	3.75p

- \* Increase in profits for the tenth consecutive year
- \* 15% increase in earnings per share
- \* Another year of record profit expected in 1985

Accounts available from the Secretary,  
Crest House, Station Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 9NP

In the past six months the City has been full of talk about a list of potential acquisitions drawn up for the board at Imperial. All kinds of names have emerged as being under consideration, from the Norman's Group of cash and carry stores to United Biscuits. Rowntree is the latest

adjusting to the idea that the sale of the Milbank Tower will not produce as much cash as was hoped. The company apparently expects Milbank to produce only just over £12 million of the £30 million it will get from property sales this year.

The cash raised will go towards future expansion of its core businesses, and the market can expect to see Vickers on an acquisition path over the next 18 months or so.

But the Vickers share price later recovered ground as market men began to hear tall-sounding tales of a predator for the engineering and Rolls-Royce car group.

Chrysler Corporation, of the US, is reckoned to be looking closely at the British company, though one would have thought the American group's experience with the Chrysler car company in the 1960s and had little joy with it, selling it to Peugeot/Talbot in 1978.

On the USM lists, Britat Group continues to move ahead strongly, the shares gaining another 25p to 340p, having touched 25p at one time. The company, which produces IBM compatible software, is enjoying

The Border & Southern Stockholders Trust, a rather staid investment group, caused a few ripples of market interest yesterday when it disclosed it has acquired 500,000 shares in Sunlight Services Group. B & S now has 6.6 per cent of SSG's shares. The emergence of B & S was enough to lift SSG 4p to 230p.

Recent news of IBM's dominance in America and elsewhere. The problems at Apple Computer mean more and more users will turn to IBM.

William Bedford, the antiques business which began dealings yesterday, got a healthy reception. The shares touched 210p in early trade before settling back at 191p, comfortably ahead of the 185p striking price. The shares were tendered at a minimum of 100p.

Plan Invest, the unit trust and portfolio management group, fell 4p to 66p alongside full year results for 1984. The company made profits of £206,400, against £155,000, and the dividend will total 1.65p. Plan Invest came to the USM a year ago at a placing price of 62½p.

Dunton Group, the brick making and property development company, slipped ½p to 21½p as the price settled after Tuesday's profits news and price rise.

On the OTC lists, For Eyes, the retail chain of opticians had a good start to life. The shares, which were offered at 20p each, were trading at 32p yesterday.

Bristol Oil & Minerals has sold its 11.4 per cent stake in Monument oil and gas, the company left on the USM from the dismantling of Minister Assets at the end of last year. Minister sold the bulk of its businesses — in insurance — to the French, leaving its oil interests to be refloated as Monument.

Since the USM listing in December, market men have been watching for takeover developments at Monument, and Bristol was well-fancied to have a hand in any bid approach. Monument shares rose 1p to 23p on the announcement, but the price has been depressed for some weeks and was trading at more than 30p back in January.

Gold shares recovered early falls following the bullion price which staged a rally from a \$10 decline to close just 5½ off its opening level.

There was heavy two-way business in Vickers and the shares reflected the market interest. At one stage they dipped to 260p before returning to the 288p opening level.

Early on City men were

## Lockheed rules out stake in British Aerospace

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

Lockheed, the Californian defence and aerospace contractor, is gearing up to make further sizeable acquisitions on the strength of its financial recovery. Mr Roy Anderson, the chairman, said in London.

Lockheed has just paid \$139 million (£109 million) for Metier, a privately-owned British computer software company, and is on the lookout for other acquisitions, particularly

in the electronics and high technology fields. However, Mr Anderson ruled out any attempt to take a stake in British Aerospace when the Government sells its remaining 48 per cent stake.

He refused to be drawn into speculation about the future of the Trident Two nuclear project in Britain for which Lockheed will manufacture the missiles it goes ahead.

## TEMPUS

## Bowater promises steady progress

The first preliminary announcement from Bowater Industries since the demerger of the North American newspaper operations last year, gave a clear indication of the kind of progress which can be expected in future. The results did not shock or stun anybody but they were underpinned by very sound businesses.

Comparisons are difficult because of the demerger, but on a like-for-like basis pretax profits rose from £27.6 million to £35.7 million. This was in line with City expectations and those who are seeking high drama from Bowater are likely to be disappointed.

The new group is now very much a management holding company with four main operating divisions headed by a small and talented management team. However, it will not be going out to grab headlines through Hanson Trust of BTR type takeovers.

The balance sheet is certainly very solid with gearing of only 19 per cent but any acquisitions are likely to be small and in the area of specific niche businesses.

Management attention will be directed instead towards improving the return on net assets which in 1984 averaged 10.6 per cent. This is down from 11.3 per cent, largely because of a poor performance from the tissues division where profits halved. The aim is to bring the return on net assets up to 20 per cent but this will not be achieved overnight.

There has been quite substantial rationalization of the group's activities costing £5.9 million below. This should reduce in 1985 although there will be further rationalization in the tissues division which is destined for a sluggish first half.

Lower pulp prices, the benefits of capital investment and the effects of rationalization will not be felt in full until the second half.

The message from Bowater Industries is that progress will be steady but sure. The shares have had a good run since the demerger and might well see a period of consolidation in the short term.

The shares closed down 3p at 256p but they should still be held for the longer term. The company could make approaching £50 million this year and the prospects for 1986 are even more encouraging.

Analysts have a choice of interpretative vehicles into the Britoil figures, either through the profit and loss account, or through the notes to the accounts.

The profit and loss critique is possibly fruitless, since the figures offer no more than an outline guide to the trading position, given the obnoxious orthodoxy of the group's accounting principles.

An increase in earnings from £143.3 million to £169.4 million needs to be set in the context of provisions, included

in the figures, of £63.4 million for unrealized losses on dollar borrowings. Other adjustments, too numerous to mention, also crop up in the figures.

At the bottom line, the impact of all these adjustments is a reduction in earnings of £40 million from what they would have been, had exchange rates remained stable during the year.

But the board's estimation was delivered at about 12.23 yesterday afternoon, when sterling was about \$1.15. Sterling's afternoon climb presumably cut the estimated loss figure. Or did it?

Note seven to the accounts is more helpful. This shows that gross cash flow last year was £1.1 billion. Net cash inflows increased by £48 million, after £500 capital expenditure, and a reduction of £17.3 million. Year-end cash was £373 million. Net interest payable dropped £10 million to £3.6 million.

Output over the year was also buoyant, perhaps more than the market expected.

Hence Britoil presents the spectacle of a fairly well braced oil group, with an improving production record, whose prospects and ratings are clouded by exchange rate vagaries, and market uncertainty over the destiny of the Government's 49 per cent stake.

A price of 300p a share, rather than last night's 213p would be a fairer valuation.

## Rockware Group

Rockware Group duly pleased the market yesterday with a set of annual results which confirmed that Sir Peter Parker's stern medicine is working.

After a year of horrors on his arrival from the hot seat at British Rail, 1984 was the year of the big turnaround, when the group clawed its way back into the black.

Now shareholders, not to mention the banks and institutions who rescued Rockware in 1983, can look forward to a period when the group makes solid progress which should culminate in a return to the dividend lists.

Another price increase is in the pipeline, and the stock-brokers Simon and Coates have been buying the shares lately on predictions that the 1985 profit will be up from last year's £2.7 million to as much as £5.5 million. Yesterday the shares rose 5p to 54p in recognition that that could mean earnings per share of 18p, taking the prospective p/e ratio down to three.

In practice, though, the onset of dividends is likely to prompt conversion of the preference shares, diluting the p/e to perhaps eight.

For investors who can wait for their income, that makes the shares a good short-term punt on continuing recovery. But in the longer run the market will have to be convinced that Sir Peter has settled on an effective diversification strategy.



## Allied Irish Banks plc

announces that with effect from close of business on 21st March 1985 its Base Rate was reduced from 14% to 13½% p.a.

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